

**HISTORY OF  
BUTLER  
COUNTY  
KANSAS**

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Vol. P. Mooney















Val P. Mooney

HISTORY  
OF  
**BUTLER COUNTY**  
KANSAS

BY  
VOL. P. MOONEY  
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ILLUSTRATED

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STANDARD PUBLISHING COMPANY  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS  
1916



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## DEDICATED

TO THE MEMORY OF MY WIFE.

FRANCES E. MOONEY,

WHO FELL ASLEEP—CROSSING THE GREAT DIVIDE—  
FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIRST, NINETEEN HUNDRED  
AND SIXTEEN. FOR FORTY YEARS MY COMPANION  
AND FRIEND; ALWAYS ASSISTING, NEVER HINDER-  
ING; LIVING ON THE SUNNY SIDE, REFUSING THE  
CLOUDS; WHOSE COMING BROUGHT DELIGHT AND  
GLADNESS; WHOSE DEPARTURE TOOK AWAY THE  
MOTIVE, THE INCENTIVE, THE INSPIRATION OF  
LIFE, LEAVING AN EXISTENCE OF CHAOS, DESOLA-  
TION AND GLOOM. HER HOUSEHOLD WAS HER JOY;  
HER HOME HER TREASURE; HER FRIENDS HER  
PRIDE; HER FAITH IN ALMIGHTY GOD, AND THE IM-  
MORTALITY OF THE SOUL, HER COMFORT. "HER  
CHILDREN RISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED; HER  
HUSBAND ALSO, AND HE PRAISETH HER."

VOL. P. MOONEY.

## FOREWORD

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"Histories are as perfect as the historian is wise and is gifted with an eye and a soul."—Carlyle.

The contributors to this work, the historians, are men and women, writing from personal knowledge, personal observation, and personal experience; those that have made, created, and assisted in making and creating that of which they write. That they are wise and gifted and endowed with, and possessed of both eye and soul, is a self-evident fact; and the reader will be convinced that they speak that which they do know. This history being based upon such evidence, which becomes the best evidence attainable, its reliability, its perfection, and its authenticity, are assured.

The history of Butler county is the history of an empire. While many of those pioneers of early days have taken their chamber in the silent halls of death, have gone to that country from whose bourne no traveler hath ever yet returned, yet a goodly number remain among us; ripe in years, experience and information. From them we learn of those whose brain and brawn laid, and assisted in laying the foundation of what is today a county. "Magnificent in its greatness and great in its magnificence"—a county with a diversity of interests and resources practically unlimited; a county where school houses and church spires are always in sight; a county whose people are happy, contented and prosperous, possessed of refinement and culture, attained unto an intellectual level; and equipped to meet the broader view and higher purpose of the civilized world.

As we contemplate the results of the efforts of these hardy, earnest early settlers, and realize the wonderful transformation by reason thereof, and as we enjoy the fruits and benefits of their labors, their toil, their hardships, their sacrifices, our hearts go out in thankfulness to Almighty God for that American spirit possessed by our ancestry, which battles, builds, creates, and makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before.

The reminiscences of these pioneers form a most essential, valuable and interesting portion of this work. There is nothing mythical or legendary contained in them. They are not dream stories, but reliable and authentic stories of the men and women, boys and girls of early days. Their romances, their trials, tribulations and triumphs. They who

#### FOREWORD

stayed, who endured, who conquered, who are entitled to, and who will receive greater things in the days to come.

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to the press of Butler county, and to those whose kindness of heart and whose ready pen have rendered material assistance in the preparation of this work; and to those pioneer men and women whose lives and experiences make this history possible, a great many of whom are no longer here, but whose memory remains like unto a benediction; and to my daughter, Corah Adelaide Mooney, for her efficient help.

Recognition is made of the following bibliography used in the preparation of this book: Kansas State Historical Collection; Wilder's Annals of Kansas; Kansas in American Commonwealths, by Leverett W. Spring; History of Kansas, William C. Cutler; Cyclopedia of State, F. W. Blackmar; Kansas Session Laws, Bulletins, Pamphlets, Records, etc.

VOL. P. MOONEY.

El Dorado, Kans., September, 1916.

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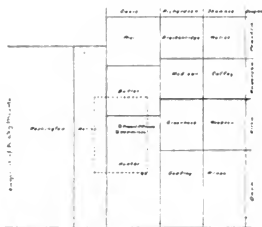
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No. 1



Butler County in 1855

No. 2



Butler County in 1857-1859

No. 3



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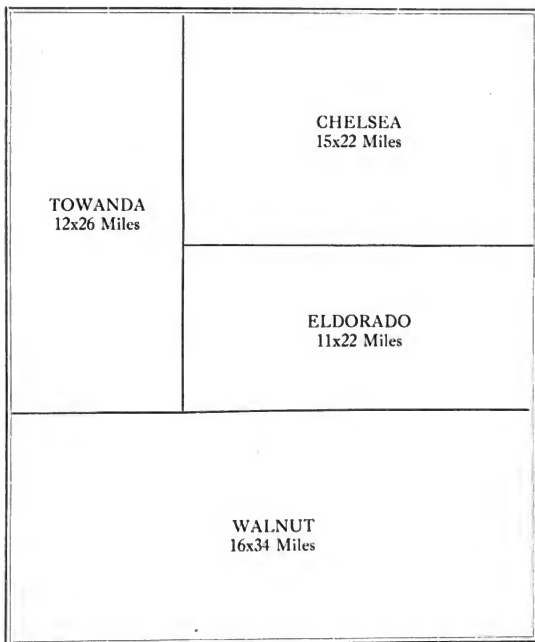
Butler County in 1865-66

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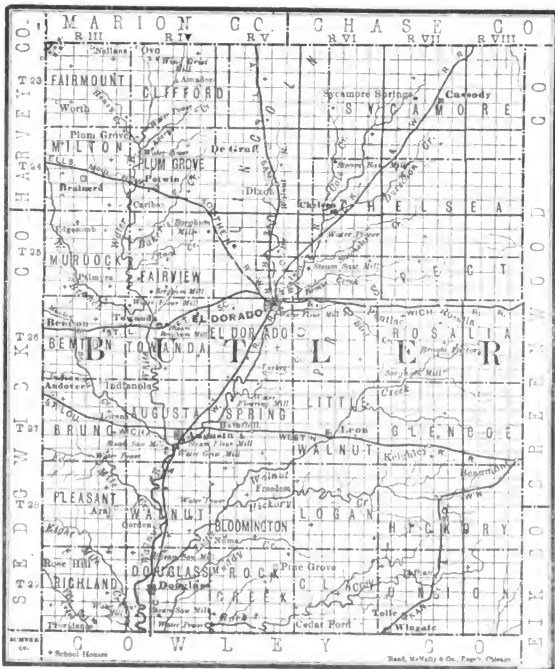


Butler County at Present Date, 1916

MAPS SHOWING BOUNDARY CHANGES SINCE 1855  
 DOTTED LINES SHOW PRESENT COUNTY



MAP SHOWING FIRST DIVISION OF BUTLER COUNTY, 1867



A MAP OF BUTLER COUNTY





EARLY DAY TRANSPORTATION



# History of Butler County

## CHAPTER I.

### ORGANIZATION.

NAMED IN HONOR OF ANDREW P. BUTLER—EARLY INFLUENCE INDICATED IN NAME—ONE OF THE ORIGINAL THIRTY-THREE COUNTIES—FIRST AND LATER BOUNDARIES—FIRST COUNTY SEAT—TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES — ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS — DISTRICTS — TOPOGRAPHY — PRODUCTS—HERD LAW—FENCES.

Butler county was named in honor of Andrew P. Butler, for twelve years United States Senator from South Carolina.

Andrew Pickens Butler lived from 1796 to 1857. He was prominent in politics and an active worker for the cause of the South. He served in the Legislature in 1824, and was appointed judge of the circuit and supreme courts in 1833. In 1846, he was appointed United States Senator and served until his death. Senator Butler was attacked with great severity by Senator Sumner in his speech, "The Crime Against Kansas." Butler was absent from the Senate at the time, but Preston S. Brooks, a relative who was present, later mortally assaulted Sumner.

Senator Butler was a zealous advocate of the right of the South to introduce slavery into the Territory of Kansas. The naming of this county after an ardent southern sympathizer is an echo of the spirit of the times. Many of the counties of the original organization were similarly named, this being the Missouri influence working itself out in the "Bogus Legislature." Thus were named Davis, Wise, Lykins, Douglass, Jefferson, Calhoun, Bourbon, Breckinridge, Franklin, Weller, Anderson, Dorn, McGee and Godfrey counties. The names of some of these counties were changed in later years, while others still retain the original name, as does Butler county.

Butler, the largest county in area in Kansas, is located in the southern part of the State, east of the center, it being in the second tier of counties from the south line, and in the fifth tier west from the east line of the State.

Butler county was established in 1855, by the first territorial legislature, which met at Pawnee, on the Kansas River, 145 miles west of

Westport, Mo. After its organization the legislative body removed to the Shawnee Manual Labor School in Johnson county—this school was established in 1831. This legislature was known as the "Bogus Legislature" on account of its being convened and run by men from the State of Missouri.

At this session the territory was divided into thirty-three counties. Thus Butler county is one of the original counties created by the first legislature of the Territory of Kansas.

The boundaries of Butler county as defined in the creative act as follows: "Beginning at the southeast corner of Wise county (the present Morris county); thence running south thirty miles; thence west thirty miles; thence north thirty miles; thence east thirty miles to the place of beginning." This giving the county an original area of 900 square miles.

The county at that time was attached to Madison county for civil



BUTLER COUNTY COURT HOUSE, EL DORADO, KANS.

and military purposes—(see map No. 1.) The same legislative act of 1855 designated the region immediately south of the original Butler, a tract thirty miles east and west, and about seventy-eight miles north and south, to the southern boundary line of the territory, as Hunter county.

In 1857 the boundaries were changed by legislative act. This act

made Butler county consist of a tract thirty miles wide, directly south of Wise (Morris) county, extending southward thirty-eight miles. Hunter was made to consist of the section south of Butler to the territorial line.

On February 11, 1859, Butler county was organized. The legislature was then in session at Lecompton, Samuel Medary being governor. Governor Medary from Ohio was the ninth, or next to the last territorial governor.

This act included the organization of Wise and Chase counties. Chase was made of the region south of Wise, twenty-four miles by thirty miles east and west. The fifth standard parallel, near the west branch bridge on North Main street, El Dorado, was the south boundary line of Butler county.

Chelsea was then the county seat of Butler, while old El Dorado was in Hunter county. This first location of El Dorado was south and west of the present El Dorado. The original site included what is now known as the Royce farm, the C. C. Jamieson farm, the West cemetery, and a portion of the land now owned by Mrs. Mary White, mother of William Allen White. The land was platted but not filed, there being no filing office near at that time.

February 27, 1860, Irving county was made out of the region commencing where the fifth standard parallel and guide meridian cross, between ranges 8 and 9, west thirty-six and north twenty-four miles. El Dorado was the temporary county seat.

On February 24, 1864, the boundaries were once more changed. It was said an early settler had either to be a surveyor, or employ one permanently in order to keep informed of the changes in the boundaries. The boundary lines as described by the act of 1864 were as follows: Commencing at a point twelve miles west of the present northeast corner of Harvey county; thence south to the south line of the State; thence east to a point nine miles east of the present southwest corner of Chautauqua county; thence north to the southeast corner of Chase county; thence west twenty-four miles; then north six miles; thence west to the place of beginning.

This description covered a strip twelve miles wide on the east side of Harvey, Sedgewick and Sumner counties, all of Cowley county, and a strip nine miles wide on the west side of Chautauqua, Elk and Greenwood counties, and three townships in the southwest corner of Marion county. Thus including the territory now occupied by Newton, Wichita, Belle Plaine, Oxford, Winfield, Arkansas City, Cedarvale, Grenola, Reece, Burns and Peabody.

During this period Chelsea was the county seat. Thomas Carney was then governor. Governor Carney was the second governor after the State was admitted to the Union.

The act providing that Butler county should include all this territory was repealed in 1867. On February 26, of that year, by legislative act Butler county was given its present form.

Jerry D. Connor, prominent early settler, was a member of the legislature at that time. (See maps 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

So that today the county is bounded on the north by Marion and Chase counties; on the east by Greenwood and Elk counties; on the south by Cowley county, and on the west by Edgwick and Harvey counties. A description of its location is as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of section 4, township 23, range 8, east of the sixth principal meridian; thence running west to the northwest corner of section 6, township 23, range 3, east; thence south to the southwest corner of section 31, township 29, range 3, east; thence east to the southeast corner section 33, township 29, range 8, east; thence north to the place of beginning.

From north to south it stretches forty-two miles, and from east to west thirty-four and a half miles; making a total area of nearly 1,000,000 acres, or 1,440 square miles.

Butler county is larger than the State of Rhode Island, while its arable land amounts to nearly as much as that of two of the smaller eastern states. Thus it may well claim its name, the "State of Butler."

August 23, 1867, Butler county was divided into the townships of Chelsea, El Dorado, Walnut and Towanda. The boundaries given to these townships are described as follows:

Chelsea township: Commencing at the northwest corner of section 19, township 25, range 5; thence east to county line; thence north to northeast corner of the county; thence west to range line between ranges 4 and 5; thence south to the beginning.

El Dorado township: Commencing at the northwest corner of section 19, township 25, range 5; thence south nine miles; thence east six miles; thence south two miles; thence east fifteen miles to the east line of the county; thence north eleven miles; thence west twenty-one miles to the place of beginning.

Walnut township: Commencing at the southeast corner of El Dorado township; thence west to the west line of the county (thence east to point south of the beginning, omitted from the records); thence north to the beginning.

Towanda township: Commencing at the southeast corner of section 12, township 27, range 4; thence west to the county line; thence north to the north line of the county; thence east to the range line between ranges 4 and 5; thence south to the place of beginning.

From these four original townships were drawn the remaining townships of the county, they having been divided and subdivided, parts added and detached to finally form the twenty-nine townships which now comprise the county.

The names of the townships of Butler county, with the date of organization, are given below:

Augusta township: Organized in 1870 from parts of El Dorado and Walnut. In 1872, part detached to form Spring. In 1873, parts de-

tached to form Bruno and Pleasant. In 1874, parts detached to form Bloomington.

Benton Township: Organized in 1872 from part of Towanda.

Bloomington township: Organized in 1874 from parts of Augusta and Walnut.

Bruno township: Organized in 1873 from part of Augusta.

Chelsea township: Organized in 1876 in the original division of the county into townships. In 1876, part detached to form Clifford. In 1878, part detached to form Sycamore. In 1879, parts detached to form El Dorado and Lincoln.

Clay township: Organized in 1879 from part of Walnut.

Clifford township: Organized in 1876 from parts of Chelsea and Towanda.

Douglass township: Organized in 1874 from part of Walnut.

El Dorado township: Organized in 1867, in the original division of the county into townships. Parts detached in 1877 to form Glencoe, Little Walnut, Prospect and Rosalia. In 1879, part of Chelsea attached.

Fairmount township: Organized in 1873 from part of Towanda.

Fairview township: Organized in 1873 from part of Towanda.

Glencoe township: Organized in 1877 from parts of El Dorado and Walnut.

Hickory township: Organized in 1875 from part of Walnut.

Lincoln township: Organized in 1879 from part of Chelsea.

Little Walnut township: Organized in 1877 from parts of El Dorado and Walnut.

Logan township: Organized in 1874 from part of Walnut.

Milton township: Organized in 1873 from part of Towanda.

Murdock township: Organized in 1873 from part of Towanda.

Pleasant township: Organized in 1873 from parts of Augusta and Walnut.

Plum Grove township: Organized in 1873 from part of Towanda.

Prospect township: Organized in 1877 from part of El Dorado.

Richland township: Organized in 1874 from part of Walnut.

Rock Creek township: Organized in 1879 from part of Walnut.

Rosalia township: Organized in 1874 from part of El Dorado.

Spring township: Organized in 1872 from part of Augusta.

Sycamore township: Organized in 1867 in the original division of the county into townships. Part detached in 1870 to form Augusta. Part detached in 1872 to form Benton. Part detached in 1873 to form Fairmount, Fairview, Milton, Murdock and Plum Grove. Part detached in 1867 to form Clifford.

Union township: Organized in 1879 from part of Walnut.

Walnut township: Organized in 1867 in the original division of the county into townships. In 1870, part detached to form Augusta. In 1873, part detached to form Pleasant. In 1874, part detached to form Bloomington, Douglass and Richland. In 1875, part detached to form

Hickory. In 1877, parts detached to form Glencoe and Little Walnut. In 1879, parts detached to form Clay, Rock Creek and Union.

March 21, 1860, the county was divided into three commissioners districts.

These districts were to include the territory described in the records as follows:

District No. 1: Township 22, of ranges 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; township 23, of ranges 6 and 7, and one mile off of the north side of township 25, of ranges 6 and 7.

District No. 2: Townships 23, 24 and 25, of range 5, and five miles off of the south side of township 25, of ranges 6 and 7.

District No. 3: Townships 23, 24 and 25, of range 8; townships 23, 24 and 25, of range 9, and townships 23, 24 and 25, of range 10.

September 4, 1871, the first division of the county into commissioners districts by townships was made. According to this division the districts were thus designated:

First district: The townships of Augusta, Towanda and Plum Grove.

Second district: The townships of El Dorado, Chelsea and Rosalia.

Third district: The townships of Little Walnut, Union, Walnut and Spring.

As now constructed the commissioners districts of Butler county include the townships as given in the following:

First district: Union, Hickory, Logan, Clay, Rock Creek, Bloomington, Spring, Augusta, Walnut, Douglass, Richland and Pleasant.

Second district: Glencoe, Rosalia, Prospect, El Dorado and Little Walnut.

Third district: Chelsea, Sycamore, Lincoln, Fairmount, Clifford, Milton, Plum Grove, Fairview, Murdock, Benton, Bruno and Towanda.

Butler county is a confine of almost a million acres of prairie land, a considerable portion of which is of rolling character. It has an elevation of from 600 to 1,200 feet. The surface ranges from the broad level or rolling lands in the western part to broken and rough places in the eastern part, with a line of rugged hills on the extreme east border. These belong to the range known as the Flint Hills, an irregular, picturesque, line of hills, that a man standing on their limestone capped summit, inhaling Kansas ozone, and surveying the peace and wealth of the valleys, holds his head a little higher and breathes a little deeper in pride of home and possessions in Butler county.

There is very little waste land as the soil is fertile and productive, heavier or deeper on the bottom lands and is adapted to the growth of almost every variety of grain and fruit. The river and creek bottoms comprise about one-fifth of the area and range from a mile to two miles in width.

The timber is confined to the bottom lands along the streams, varying from a few rods to a mile in width. The trees native to the county are the oak, cottonwood, walnut, hackberry, white hickory, sycamore, elm, mulberry and some scattering varieties.

The principal streams are the Walnut and the Whitewater. The Walnut rises in the northeast corner of the county. The Whitewater traverses the county from the northwest, flowing into the Walnut at Augusta. These streams have many smaller tributaries. The principal ones are the West Branch, Little Walnut, Bemis, Bird, Cole, Dureekon, Eight-Mile, Muddy, Satchel and Turkey creeks, tributaries to the Walnut; and the West Branch, Elm, Dry, Diamond, Four-Mile, Rock, Went-



WHITEWATER FALLS.

worth and Bakers creeks, tributaries to the Whitewater. These streams and tributaries make Butler one of the finest watered counties in Kansas.

Corn, oats, rye, winter wheat, feterita, kafir corn, sorghum, alfalfa and prairie hay are the crops grown. The county ranks first in acreage and value of the four latter named.

The large pastures in the eastern part of the county make live stock raising of importance. These pastures contain some of the finest cattle in the world. Also at the present time, Butler county leads the State in numbers and value of animals sold for slaughter.

Fruit growing receives more or less attention over the county, there being now planted several hundred thousand trees of fruit-bearing age. An abundance of limestone is found in the soil of this county. This has been quarried extensively and large quantities of stone have been shipped to various places.

At first, fences, usually rail, laid without nails, were placed around crops in small fields.

In 1871, what is known as the "Herd" law was enacted. This was adopted in this county at an election in April, 1871. The election resulted in 569 in favor of the adoption of the law, and 504 against. Martin Vaught, B. T. Rice and Neil Wilkie were the county commissioners at that time.

The law was designed to cause cattle men to fence or herd their stock—this instead of the farmer fencing his crops.

The law met with considerable opposition, especially from those who had some fencing on their farms and who had been turning their stock out to graze, letting them go until wanted.

By this time there were quite a number of settlers on the uplands. These had no fencing material and no means of securing any. They could look after their stock more easily than they could fence their crops. And so came the need for the "Herd" law.

This law has never been repealed. It is, of course, without resistance in the present day.

After the law was enacted hedges began to be planted and fences were started in that manner. The selling of hedge plants, with wonderful guarantees of growth, became a popular industry at this time.

While the hedges were growing into lawful fences recourse was had to rope. Stock of all kinds was "lariatied," that is, tied to the end of about fifty feet of rope, the other end being fastened to a picket pin which was driven into the ground. Picket pins in those days were a staple article of trade in all stores. They were made with a swivel, to which was attached the rope, and so prevent twisting. Rope was purchased by the carload by the merchant, and bought by the coil by the farmer.

It was not an uncommon thing to see children, chickens, pigs, cows and horses attached, each to one end of a lariat, with a picket pin holding securely the other end. Sometimes a picket pin would disappear—and also a horse likewise.

As time passed on the hedges grew to serve the purpose of their planting. These hedge fences were undoubtedly of some benefit to the early Kansas farmer. They served not only as pasture enclosures, but were a protection to the treeless, wind-swept prairies. Later the hedge fence came to be regarded as more or less undesirable, and in late years has been largely cut down.

After the hedge fence came the barbed wire, which is now in universal use, and on which the farmer of today depends in the management of his broad pastures and many cattle.



## CHAPTER II.

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### ARCHAEOLOGY.

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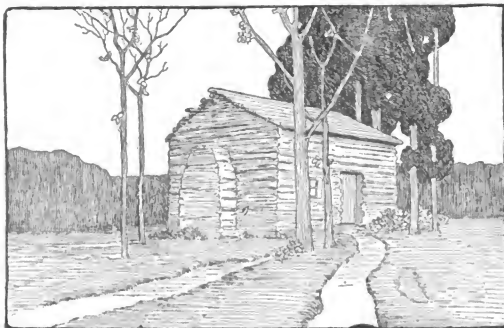
By Bill J. Martin.

PRE-HISTORIC RED MAN—CORONADO'S VISIT IN 1541—NATIVE INDIAN TRIBES—INDIAN CHARACTER—EARLY TRAILS—EVIDENCES OF PRE-HISTORIC OCCUPATION OF BUTLER COUNTY—INDIAN RELICS—VILLAGE AND CAMP SITES—INDIAN TRADITIONS—INDIAN IMPLEMENTS.

My friend, Judge V. P. Mooney, has asked me to write a little article on the archaeology of Butler county, Kansas, for his forthcoming "History of Butler County." All I can do is to tell a little of prehistoric man in this territory, by the footprints he has left in and on the soil of this noble country. These ancient men were the ancestors of those found in this land at the dawn of historic time. What kind of men were here when Coronado made his memorable advance into Kansas in the year 1541, in search of gold? He met the Indians of the provinces of Quivira and Harahey, but found no gold. The Indians had represented Quivira to be a land of fabulous wealth, and when the Spaniards found no gold or silver forthcoming they strangled the poor "Turk," the Indian guide. They had made mistakes all around. The Spaniards came to Kansas too soon, and the Indians should have brought them to the region now known as Butler county, which is the real "land of gold," for the gold can be had through the medium of corn, alfalfa and wheat, cattle, horses and hogs, poultry and kafir, fruit and eggs, and gas and oil. The State of Butler is as grand and productive a country as the sun ever shown upon. A writer has said that "God could have made a better country, but that he never did." The Quivirans, whom Coronado met in 1541, were the ancestors of the modern Pawnee Indians, and the History of Kansas by Clara H. Hazelrigg says that there were three other native tribes, the Kansa, Osage and Padoucas. George P. Morehouse, of Topeka, said: "The earliest recorded accounts represent the Kansa tribe as owner of that imperial pasture now called Kansas. Here the Kansa were born, had lived, acted, and passed on for many generations. Here they had hunted, fished, and fought; here was their home. What an empire, to these first native sons of Kansas? Its ample sustaining resources were on every hand, the secrets of nature, from the wooded

streams and rich bottom lands of the Missouri border, to the vast treeless areas of the great plains, all teeming with game of every character, were to them revealed as an inspiration and an open book."

What caused the Indian to leave Butler county and other parts of Kansas? Was he essentially a bad man? No. The whites have always wanted his good lands, and he was compelled to step down and out. Here is what Frederick S. Dellenbaugh said of Indian character: "He (the Indian) loved his home, his family, as constituted by his social regulations, and his children. As to honesty and dishonesty, the balance was certainly not far from even, average for average, if anything, the Indian had more respect for the ideals of his race than was the case of the white man with reference to his."



A PIONEER HOME.

Washington Irving said of the Indians' fall: "Civilized society has advanced upon them like one of those withering airs that will sometimes breathe desolation over a whole region of fertility, it has enervated their strength, multiplied their diseases, and superinduced upon their original barbarity the low vices of artificial life."

From what I know of the demoralization of the historic Indian, I think the prehistoric Red Man of Butler county was probably a man of as good character as the average white man. In the literature pertaining to Kansas I find very little mention made of Butler county. The travel from east to west was north and south of this county. In a map in Vol. 9, Kansas Historical Collections, I find two trails marked, the California trail from southeast corner, to the northwest corner of the county, and the Osage trail to the Arkansas river across the center of

the county from east to west. Bellin's map of Louisiana of 1744 says the country of the Kansa Indians extended from the Missouri river almost to the mountains. Some have said that Butler county was never inhabited by sedentary tribes of Indians, but I think otherwise, as I have explored a good deal of the southern half of the county, and have found much evidence of settled prehistoric occupation, in the valleys of Big Walnut, Little Walnut, Hickory, Picayune, Mephitis Americana and other creeks. I have in my collection of ancient Indian relics numbers of the following implements and weapons: Metates, mano stones, whetstones, rubbing stones, grinding stones, boiling stones, hammer stones, cup stones, anvil stones, stone mauls, arrow shaft rubbers, stone axes, flint spades and hoes, celts, spears, arrows, perforators, drills, whole pipes, pieces of pipes, blocks of catlinite (pipe material), flint flakes of many colors, flint knives, discs and pieces of broken pottery of many different kinds. William Bass, who lives near Pontiac, has perhaps as varied an assortment as mine, including flint fish hooks, something I have never found. All of the artifacts mentioned, with the manufactures of wood, bark, reeds, fibers, sinews, hides, bones, shell, horn, hair, feathers and other perishable materials, prove that the ancient man of Butler county was a very industrious person indeed. His wife also was always at work, tanning hides, moulding pottery, working in her garden, cooking and manufacturing the first breakfast foods, hominy and succotash. There are village and camp sites on Hickory creek, on the Stebbins ranch, Wellington Sowers ranch, J. C. Getter ranch, Mrs. Benninghoff's farm, H. M. Cotton farm, Pattison ranch, Brown ranch, Mrs. Noe's farm, J. Ellis farm, William Mort ranch and others. On Little Walnut creek, B. F. Yates' farm, Hon. F. Leidy's farm, L. Boelner's farm, Nunes' ranch, F. M. Tabing's farm, Bear ranch, the Marshall Bros. farms, the Dilts and Discon farms, and Joel Parker's farm. On Picayune creek, on the B. F. Rickey farm, and on Mephitis Americana creek, on farm of F. M. Tabing. I presume there are many more places where our red friends lived, and loved, and worked, and sung, and danced, in the days of long ago. On a farm on the Big Walnut river, once known as the Hazelhurst place, now owned by Mr. Taylor, there is an ancient village site about a mile long, which must have once been covered with many lodges; the ground is full of scrapers, chips of flint and pottery sherds. My friend, the late Hon. James R. Mead, of Wichita, expressed the opinion that Butler county was a most desirable place of residence for the aborigine, on account of its numberless creeks and springs, and the purity of its waters. Alas! that the Kansa should have ever exchanged this excellent beverage for piejene (firewater). The Kansa nation had a tradition that prior to the year 1500 their home was near the sea of the rising sun. There is no tradition about the fact that the sun of their destiny is almost set, as in 1907 there were only seventy full-bloods left alive. May the ashes of those who have departed to the Happy Hunting Grounds rest in peace. Butler county must have been a good location

for the man of the Age of Stone, as there is much blue-gray chert or flint, and on Hickory creek there is an abundance of flint nodules of all shapes, from the size of a nutmeg to as large as a man's head, all suitable for the making of flint hardware. Prior to the coming of the paleface the countless herds of Buffalo roamed at will over the prairies. Their bones and teeth are found on campsites on the bottom lands. I have never seen but one whole earthen vessel of Indian manufacture found on this territory. It was a bowl found by Edward Steffen on the Steffen ranch, on Hickory creek, and is now in my collection. The reason that all the pottery is found broken, was that when a Kansa lost his wife by death he would give away or destroy her cooking utensils as a mark of respect. In these days we sometimes hear of men smashing the dishes, not on account of any disrespect to their wives, but on account of the exceedingly bad quality of the booze. I presume that in pre-historic times the dog was much used as a beast of burden. In the year of 1724 M. DeBourmont, a French military commandant, on the Mis-



WALNUT RIVER DAM, EL DORADO, KANS.

souri headed a booster trip to the Comanches, to gain their friendship and their trade. On July 7, 1724, he arrived at the Kansa village on the Kansas river, and on July 24 was accompanied by the following numbers of Kansa boosters: "Three hundred warriors, two grand chiefs and fourteen war chiefs, 300 squaws, 500 Indian children, and 500 dogs loaded down with baggage and provisions."

Verily, I say unto you that this was a great dog-trot of 191 years ago. It is needless to say the expedition was a grand success, as any

proposition backed up by Kansas men could not be otherwise. It has sometimes been said that the ancient inhabitants of Butler territory were non-agriculturists, but I think the stone mills, spades and hoes found on the grounds prove that they were farmers to some extent. The ancient Indian, enjoying superb physical and mental health, was a keen observer of all the details of nature. In his rambles in pursuit of game and other travels he never failed to note strange and curious stones and take them to his home for further examination, and to see if they could be made into implements, by either flaking, pecking or grinding. He also knew much more about botany than many of Dr. White's garden-grangers ever learned. (I think Dr. White organized the garden-grangers along some time in the seventies). The Kansa had more religion than most of us, as he connected every mystery in nature with his God, the Great Manitou. In my collection of relics are many so-called cupstones. They are flat stones of flint and limestone, with from one to six or more small saucer-shaped depressions on one or both sides. Some scientists think they were for cracking nuts; others, that they were for making fire by revolution and friction of a stick of wood in the cavities, and as the cavity, when worn too deep, would not work, a new cavity had to be made. I adhere to the fire theory for these reasons: The flint blocks have but one cavity, not being worn out like the soft limestone, and some of the limestone blocks have the cavities so near the edge that a blow hard enough to crack a black walnut would smash the block to pieces. I have a big stone sledge made of a mountain rock, which had been broken in two. One part of this tool was found by the late H. H. Marshall on his farm, the other was found by my son, Louis H. Martin, on the farm of the late Charles Tabing. There are two kinds of implements peculiar to this Buffalo country, they are flint scrapers and four-edged flint knives. The scrapers were used in preparing hides for the tanning process; the four-edged knife is of a long diamond shape, and they are generally very finely chipped.

I have in my collection a piece of iron ore, which had evidently been used as a source of paint, it was found on Hickory creek. Some Indian had fancifully carved on it the face of an otter or some other animal.

W. K. Moorehead, author of "Prehistoric Implements," says on page 66: "Taking Manhattan, Kan., as a center, and drawing a circle fifty miles in diameter, an archaeologist will find a local culture somewhat higher than the average plains tribes attained elsewhere. Primarily, they depended on the buffalo, but they also were agriculturists, although on a small scale." I would take the liberty of extending this area at least fifty miles farther to the south of Manhattan, so as to include this great land of Butler, as I have objects in my collection which show absolute perfection in the arts of chipping, grinding, and pecking stone into fine implements. The writer of the foregoing sketch has lived in Butler county for forty-five years, and is profoundly in love with its people, its soil, its trees and its grass, its rivers and its rocks, its sunshine and

its flowers, its past history and its present and future prospects. I have often described it to my friends as a paradise in the center of the United States, and that it really is the heart of the world. Some of these friends sometimes dispute this statement, that Butler county is the center of the United States, then W. J. M. comes back with the rejoinder, that there are some rock-ribbed hills on the Atlantic shore, and some sandy stretches on the Pacific which we do not count, and that Butler county is indeed the center of the great United States and the heart of the world.

## CHAPTER III.

### FIRST EVENTS.

FIRST SETTLER—BIRTHS—MARRIAGES—POSTOFFICES—STORES—SCHOOLS  
—CHURCHES—COURT RECORDS AND PROCEDURE—OFFICIAL ACTS—  
ELECTIONS—ASSESSMENT AND FIRST VALUATION—PRESENT VALU-  
ATION.

First settler: William Hildebrande, settled in what is now El Dorado township, in May, 1857.

First births: Henry Jefferson, 1857, near Chelsea; now deceased. Mrs. Addie Cowley-Bradley, May 4, 1858, El Dorado township. Mrs. Bradley is the wife of W. P. Bradley, of El Dorado, and has the distinction of being the oldest living native child of Butler county.

First marriages: Jacob E. Chase and Augusta Stewart, El Dorado township, January, 1859. Berg Atwood and Elizabeth Badley, Towanda township, 1859.

First postoffices: Chelsea, 1858; C. S. Lambdin, postmaster. El Dorado, 1860; D. L. McCabe, postmaster.

First stores: Old El Dorado, 1857; grocery, by Mr. Howland. Chelsea, 1859; country store, by Mr. Kaufman.

First schools: Chelsea township, 1860, district No. 1; taught by Sarah Satchel. El Dorado township, 1861; first school house built by subscription of settlers, afterwards purchased by district No. 2.

First religious services: Chelsea township, house of J. C. Lambdin; Rev. C. G. Morse, Congregationalist, from Emporia, preacher.

First resident preacher: Rev. Winbery, Baptist, 1858; no church building.

First church organized: El Dorado, Presbyterian; building commenced in 1872, not completed until 1877.

First Sunday school: Chelsea, 1859, Minnie Post and Maggie Vaught, teachers

First newspaper: Walnut Valley Times, March 4, 1870.

First railroad: El Dorado and Walnut Valley (Sante Fe System); track completed to El Dorado, July 31, 1877, 6:27 p. m.

The following are the first events to be put on record in the county: First Recorded Marriage—Butler county, in the State of Kansas, August 26, 1861. I hereby certify that I did celebrate the rites of matrimony

and solemnize the same between J. D. P. Goodall and Elizabeth Cooper, on the eleventh day of August, in the year 1861, in the county of Butler, and State of Kansas, both parties being residents of the county and State aforesaid.

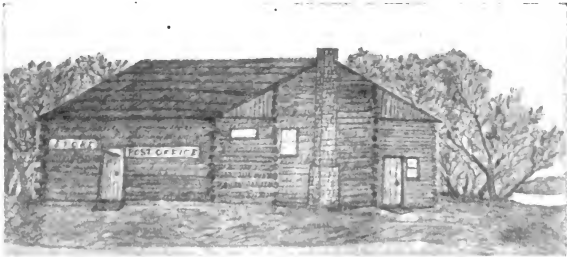
J. E. Mayfield,

An ordained minister of the Gospel.

Since this time, the records show 7,500 marriage licenses have been issued.

First will admitted to probate: Ambrose Muller, filed March 13, 1873. Joseph Carr and A. L. L. Hamilton, witnesses. Probated by Judge Hamilton.

First administrator appointed: Martin Vaught, June 21, 1867, appointed administrator of the estate of Alfred G. Brown, deceased.



HOTEL, STORE AND POSTOFFICE, TOWANDA, KANS., 1869—I. MOONEY PROPRIETOR.

First application for sale of school lands: July 17, 1867, James R. Mead files application for right to purchase the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 16, Twp. 26, R. 4 East. W. W. Slayton, William Hanley and ——— Bailey appointed appraisers and land sold to James R. Mead at \$3 per acre.

First guardian: October 8, 1867, J. D. Conner appointed guardian of Martha G. and Mary H. Atwood, minor heirs of Bige W. and Elizabeth Atwood, deceased.

First complaint for insanity: Filed April 28, 1864, by Henry Martin, J. P., alleging one E. E. Lower was mad or insane. A jury of twelve was called, Lower declared insane and sent to state hospital.

First writ of habeas corpus: Issued February 18, 1869, directed to Captain S. L. Barr for the unlawful detention of D. E. Golia and Phil Ledvick in military camp at Wichita.

Change of mind: One day in 1869, one Roda Eckley filed application in usual form to be appointed administrator of estate of James



Eckley, deceased. Upon this application appears the following endorsement: "After giving me much trouble, Mrs. Eckley concluded not to take out letter of administration."

Costs not paid.

William Harrison, Probate Judge.

Apprentice: March 28, 1870, agreement filed in probate court: "I, Elisha Main, do indenture my daughter, Amanda M. Main, to Edwin Cowles until she arrive at the age of 18 years, which will be July 2, A. D., 1876. Said Cowles to care for, clothe her respectably and give her board in his family and give her a good common school education."

First criminal action: Brought April, 1866. The State of Kansas vs. Joseph Smith and Oliver C. Link on charge of burglary. Verdict, not guilty as to Smith, and action dismissed as to Link.

First civil action: Brought April, 1866. James Thomas vs. J. B. McCabe for replevin of property; district court. First convened July, 1866. J. M. Watson, judge; Henry Imel, clerk; both of Cottonwood Falls; W. D. Show, sheriff.

First jury: Joseph Adams, William Thomas, James Craft, T. W. Satchell, John Bishop, Edward Jenkins, P. P. Johnson and Dr. Lewellyn. The following did not answer to their names: W. A. Badley, William Towsley, A. P. Alexander, and for good and sufficient reasons were excused.

First divorce: Nannie Edwards vs. James Edwards, W. T. Galliger, attorney; cause, failure to provide.

First conveyance: George W. Birch and Sarah Birch to P. G. D. Morton. In consideration of \$50, one house, 13x16, and three lots, two of which the house stands and the other some one of the business lots as platted on town plat of Chelsea, being the same house in which said Birch now resides and said lots being the same promised to said Birch for building said house in and standing on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 28, township 24, range 6, in Butler county territory of Kansas. Both parties signed by "x" mark, acknowledged before J. R. Lambdin, clerk of the court.

First mortgage: August 9, 1866. Dr. Lewellyn to Eliazar Fullinwider, of Montgomery county, Indiana, for \$100, secured by mortgage on east half of the southwest quarter of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 8, township 25, range 6, in Butler county territory of Kansas. In consideration of the payment of \$340 this mortgage is hereby released September 9, 1865. (Note the rate of interest).

All meetings of the county commissioners prior to 1867 were held at Chelsea, generally at the residence of the county clerk. On January 7, 1867, the board of commissioners, consisting of D. Lewellyn, S. Stewart and James R. Meade, met at the office of the county clerk at the junction of Whitewater. (Where is it?) "By order of the board, an election precinct is hereby established at the school house at the junction of Whitewater, Chelsea township, Butler county, and there shall be elected

(4)

three justices of the peace and three constables in the township of Chelsea, Butler county, Kansas.

The first meeting of the board of county commissioners held in the city of El Dorado was on July 1, 1867, and its meetings have been held there ever since. Two voting precincts were established in Walnut township, one at or near the junction of Whitewater and Walnut, and the other at or near the junction of Little Walnut and Big Walnut. "Towanda township shall have two voting precincts, one near Towanda and the other near J. Adams, on Whitewater.



OLD EL DORADO HOUSE, EL DORADO, KANS.

"One voting precinct in Chelsea township, which shall be at or near the center of the township as practicable.

"One voting precinct in El Dorado township, which shall be at or near to El Dorado as possible."

The following events are shown by the first records: First meeting of the board of county commissioners: Saturday, April 30, 1859, at the house of G. T. Donaldson, Chelsea township. A meeting of the county commissioners was held for the purpose of establishing officers for the county offices, P. G. Barrett, chairman; G. T. Donaldson and J. S. White, commissioners. The county commissioners were ordered to meet at Chelsea hall. The other county officers were ordered to keep their offices at their own dwellings, except the clerk of probate, who shall keep his at the residence of J. D. Lambdin. (This presumably on account of aforesaid officer being a bachelor). June 13, 1859, at a special meeting of the board, P. G. D. Morton was appointed assessor of Chelsea township and also county auditor.

The first tax levied: August 20, 1859, a poll tax was levied of \$1 per every male citizen 21 years of age and under 45. G. T. Donaldson was authorized to furnish three ballot boxes for the annual election to be held in October, also paper, pens and ink.

County divided into three commissioners districts—March 21, 1860, the county was divided into three commissioners districts. (See under boundaries). It was also ordered that an election precinct be established called Toronto precinct, the election to be held at the residence of Dr. Lewellyn.

First road (petition for): April 3, 1861, commencing near the southwest corner of section 36, township 25, range 5; thence via Chelsea and Sycamore Springs to north line of Butler county; also commencing on the east line of Butler county, near section 12, township 25; running west via \*New Salem and Chelsea to west line of the county in the direction of \*Whitewater City. \*Lost locations.

First county warrant: January 19, 1864, warrant issued for the sum of \$20 in favor of Jordan Mabe, for assessing the county. (The names of none of the officers appear on the record. It is signed, however, by William R. Lambdin, clerk). Warrant No. 2 issued in favor of M. Vaught for the sum of \$10 to be used for furnishing books and stationery for the county.

March 26, 1864, voting precincts were established at El Dorado and Towanda.

First election for county seat: May 21, 1864, election held; El Dorado, having received the highest number of votes cast, was declared the county seat of Butler county:

July 4, 1864, the following, among other proceedings, were held:

"Resolved, That whereas the county seat has been removed to El Dorado and there is not any building which can be procured for the county officers, the board resolved not to remove." April 3, 1865, the county board met at 9 o'clock. Present—Dr. Lewellyn: "Whereas, a vacancy has occurred in the office of commissioners of Butler county by the removal of S. P. Johnson and H. B. Bronson from the county. Joseph H. Adamson and Squire Stewart was appointed by said board to fill said vacancies." April 3, 1866, among other proceedings: "The board proceeded to examine the books of the late treasurer, T. W. Satchell, and found them behind \$139.87. It was ordered that the clerk institute a suit for the recovery of the same. (It is said, and generally believed, that the reason of the books being behind was that the treasurer carried his records as treasurer in his hat, and that in plowing one day his hat blew off and the records were plowed under; but while plowing the next year, they were resurrected by the same plow and the account was brought from "behind" and placed "before")—and on October 1, 1866, the board rescinded the order for the clerk to institute suit. January 7, 1867, a petition was presented by Samuel Langdon for license to sell liquor in Butler county. (No further records). By order of the board, Mattison White was considered on the county as a county charge. April 1, 1867, the county commissioners met at the office of the county clerk, A. J. Donahoo, at the junction of the Whitewater. July 2, 1867, the first petition for the sale of school land was filed. (No further record).

August 23, 1867, the county was divided into the townships of Chelsea, El Dorado, Walnut and Towanda. (See under boundaries). Ordered that the first election in said townships be held on November 5, 1867, for the election of township officers in El Dorado, Towanda and Walnut townships. October, 1867, the county house was rented to A. H. Marshall, at \$8 per month. "He is to give possession when same is needed for court or public business." The county clerk was also ordered "to employ some person to chink and daub the county house in a workman-like manner; daub up with lime and sand, and also ceiled overhead."

November 5, 1867, the first election of townships officers was held in El Dorado, Towanda and Walnut townships. At this election: El Dorado township, for justice of the peace: D. L. McCabe had 12 votes and A. H. Morehead had 11 votes. For constable: J. H. Taylor had 5 votes, Elex Petrie had 2 votes, C. S. Harrison had 1 vote and William Harrison had 4 votes.

Towanda township: J. R. Wentworth had 6 votes for justice of the peace, Amos Adams had 7 votes for constable and John W. Jones had 7 votes for trustee.

Walnut township: Peter Harpool had 7 votes for justice of the peace and Benton Kramer had 7 votes for constable. At this same election certain proposed amendments to the State constitution were voted upon: For striking out the word male from Section 1, article 5 of the constitution, there were cast in the county, 28 votes in favor of the proposition and 76 votes against the same. This was the first vote of woman's suffrage in the county and in the State. The measure was defeated in the State by a vote of 9,070 for to 19,857 against. The amendment for striking out the word white from the constitution received 33 votes for and 70 against. This amendment was defeated in the state by a vote of 10,483 for to 19,241 against. For the amendment of article 2, section 5 of the constitution, restoring election franchises to loyal citizens, there were 39 votes in favor of same and 64 against. The submitting of these amendments was an attempt to change the organic law of the State, but each of the amendments failed at this election. April, 1868, it was resolved to rent the court house to S. Langdon for a few weeks, "he to furnish a building as good as said court house for holding court in, if he should not move out." October 5, 1868, Thomas J. Robinson presented a petition to the board for a license to keep a dram shop. There not being enough names on the petition said license was not granted. November, 1868, Archibald Ellis, one of the commissioners, ordered the clerk to enter his protest again canvassing the votes of Sedgwick county. Same meeting—The board investigated the accounts of the county treasurer and found a difference against the county treasurer of approximately \$3.45. They found, generally, that the accounts of the county treasurer have been kept in an unsatisfactory manner and recommended more care and clearness on his part hereafter. July 5, 1869, John Jones was appointed assessor for Cowley county and Dr. Lewellyn was appointed as-

essor for Sedgwick county, they being attached to Butler county for judicial purposes. April 3, 1871, W. P. Campbell presented a petition, signed by himself, protesting against any lawyer occupying an office in the court house. Thereupon the board adjourned.

First assessment: The first assessment of the county, under its present dimensions, was in 1867, prior to the division of the county into townships, the assessment being made by the county assessor. The real estate valuation and the tax collected therefrom came, principally, from non-residents, who had located land warrants or scrip on certain lands and receiving patents therefor from the government and thus subjecting such lands to taxation. There were 29,700 acres of land assessed in Butler county for the year 1867. The heaviest tax payer on real estate was a party by the name of A. E. Lawrence, who owned at that time 22,100 acres of the 29,700 assessed. This land, presumably, cost him from twelve and one-half cents to twenty-five cents per acre. The party paying the largest amount of tax on personal property was G. T. Donaldson, who paid on a valuation of \$5,290. The total value of the real estate for the year was \$50,987, and the personal property \$60,728.90. The total tax levied for the year was \$2,997.88, of which \$45 was collected as a tax on dogs. The taxes were divided as follows: State tax, \$566; county tax, \$1,724.60; school tax, teachers, \$416.81; buildings, \$290.47. Seven school districts received the benefit.

In this year, 1916, there were 915,052 acres of land, assessed at a valuation of \$32,000,000. The personal property of the county is valued at \$18,791,865. The taxes levied for the year amount to the sum of \$500,000.

## CHAPTER IV.

### COUNTY SEAT AND COURT HOUSE.

FIRST COUNTY SEAT—COUNTY SEAT ELECTIONS—FIRST COURT HOUSE—  
BOND ISSUE DEFEATED—CITIZEN'S SUBSCRIPTION—FURTHER COUNTY  
SEAT CONTENTION—COURT HOUSE ENLARGED—NEW COURT HOUSE  
—LOCATION—BUILDING—COST—EXTINCT TOWNS.



FIRST BUTLER COUNTY COURT  
HOUSE.

El Dorado, on its original site south of the present El Dorado, was first the county seat of Hunter county and later, upon its organization, of Irving county. The county, as it were, having slipped from under it, the location of the town remaining the same. At this time Butler county extended only so far south as the fifth standard parallel. Chelsea was named as the county seat of Butler county by common consent of the

settlers. This was upon the organization of the county in 1859, Chelsea remaining the county seat until 1864, after the county had been changed to its present boundaries.

On May 21, 1864, an election was held, and El Dorado was selected as the county seat—(this was the old town on the Clarence King farm). There being, however, no buildings available, the commissioners refused to move. July 2, 1867, occurred the second county seat election. White-water Junction received 2 votes, County Center received 6 votes, north-west quarter of section 9, township 25, range 6, received 29 votes, and El Dorado, on section 2, township 26, range 5, received 50 votes. El Dorado was declared the county seat and the offices were moved there. The county seats of the early days were considerably on wheels, but as the principal business was the voting on county seat locations, the difference was not material. The next election was called April 4, 1870, for the removal of the county seat from El Dorado to Chelsea. This election was held May 9, 1870, Chelsea receiving 256 votes and El Dorado 524 votes. On May 21, of the same year, an election was called for June 27, 1870, for the purpose of voting \$82,500 for bonds for the erection of

county buildings. This proposition was defeated by a vote of 239 for to 550 against, and no county bonds have ever been voted.

The first real court house was built of stone on the corner lot facing Central avenue and extending south along Gordy street, this being the northeast corner of the block on which the present court house stands. July 19, 1870, Henry and C. C. Martin deeded the original site of the court house to the county. A number of citizens offered subscription to the amount of \$2,455 to assist in building a court house, provided the commissioners would proceed at once to erect a suitable building and pay the rest of the cost. On September 5, 1870, the commissioners accepted the proposition of the citizens. The original document showing the offer of one-half the cost of construction by the El Dorado business men of the early day is of a great deal of interest. The reading of the old document, with the names of those signing and the amount of donations made, are as follows: In consideration of the board of county commissioners of Butler county, Kansas, proceeding at once to award a contract for building a court house and jail at El Dorado and appropriating from the revenues of said county such sum of money as they may lawfully do, said revenues to be increases by the maximum levy of taxes provided by law, we do individually bind ourselves to pay to said county commissioners the sums set opposite our respective names to enable them, with the revenue aforesaid, that may be appropriated for that purpose and the money received by this obligation, to build and complete said building as soon as possible. And we do bind ourselves to pay one-half of said sums of money when said commissioners shall award said contract and the remaining one-half when the walls of said building are erected and the floors laid in the same. Witness our hands and seals this twenty-fourth day of August, 1870:

Allen White, \$150; J. C. Lambdin & Son, \$200; Alfred W. Ellet, \$100; T. G. Boswell, \$200; H. T. Summer, \$100; J. P. Gordon, \$100; Knowlton & Ellett, \$100; T. R. Pittock, \$100; D. M. Bronson, \$100; E. L. Lower, \$200; B. F. Gordy, \$100; S. P. Barnes, \$100; John S. Friend, \$100; Henry Martin, \$200; James Gordon, \$100; Henry Small, \$100; L. S. Friend, \$100; James R. Mead, \$100; A. M. Burdett, \$50; Betts & Frazier, \$50; J. C. Fraker, \$50; Meyer & Bolte, \$15; J. S. Danford, \$40; total, \$2,455. Bonds, etc., follow subscription list. Commissioners signing contract, M. A. Palmer and Martin Vaught.

October 10, 1870, a contract was entered into with Isaac N. Branson to build a temporary county building-court house and jail at a cost of \$6,000, the building to be 25x50 feet and two stories high. The total amount paid by the city was \$2,500 and the amount to be paid by the commissioners was \$3,750. This was the east third of the old court house used before the present new building. S. C. Fulton, M. A. Palmer and M. Vaught were the commissioners at that time. November 11, 1870, it was ordered that A. Ellis, county treasurer, sell the old log court house.

When the building was nearing completion a petition was presented to the commissioners asking for another election for the removal of the county seat to Augusta. This was entered in the records as follows: "March 6, 1871, special meeting. Petition presented by Judge Lauck for the removal of the county seat from El Dorado to Augusta. Election ordered for April, 1871." (No further record of this election). In April, 1871, the building was completed and occupied. The petition for the next election and the election are shown in the records as given below: February 16, 1872—"A petition asking for the re-location of the county seat was presented and laid over until the next session." April 1, 1872—The board at its last meeting submitted the construction of section 4, chapter 26, general statutes of 1868, to the attorney general, and, in order to get his opinion before they acted, laid the petition presented by the citizens of Augusta, asking for an election to locate the county seat, over until their next (present) meeting. The attorney general declined to give an opinion for the reason that the question was then pending in the supreme court of the State, and the petition is now laid over until after said court has rendered its decision. April 23, 1872—"The petition for the removal and re-location of the county seat, presented on the fifteenth day of February, 1872, and laid over, was again presented and an election ordered to be held June 1, 1872."

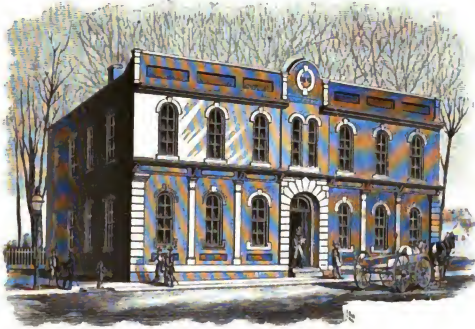
June 9, 1872—"The board met for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast at the county seat election, held on the first day of June, 1872. The board being restrained by an order of the district court, of this county, in a suit against the board of county commissioners by W. P. Gossard and L. B. Snow, from canvassing said votes and declaring the result thereof, and by reason thereof the canvassing of said votes was postponed until the court should dissolve said order." The records of the district court show on a hearing on motion filed by the defendants, that the injunction was by the court dissolved. Whereupon the plaintiffs appealed to the supreme court, entering into bonds in the sums of \$10,000. The injunction was held until after the hearing in the supreme court. The supreme court held, tenth Kansas report, page 163, that an election for the re-location of a county seat must be held within fifty days after the presentation of the petition therefor, or it is void, and ordered the district court to reverse its order refusing a temporary injunction.

July 20, 1875—"Ordered that the county clerk advertise for bids for repairing the court house."

Second wing built: On July 20, 1875, E. B. Brainerd, E. W. Clifford and J. A. McGinnis, county commissioners, were presented with a petition asking them to repair and enlarge the court house. The commissioners, having several thousand dollars surplus in the treasury, decided to appropriate the amount of money necessary to make repairs and build a new wing on the west, said wing to contain a jail. The contract was let to L. B. Snow, September 13, 1875, for \$8,000, and the building was completed early in 1876. Thus the second one-third of the old building



was built. In 1890, the board of county commissioners decided that the court house was dangerous to the officers and citizens, was insecure for the safety of the records, and, by permission of the city council, all of the offices were moved to the city building, except the clerk of the court, which was located in the I. C. Thomas building, and the court room, which was located in the old Methodist church. The third story of the city building was finished in 1891, when the clerk of the court and court room were moved thereto. January 30, 1895—"County clerk was ordered to advertise for bids for repairing court house." February 22, 1895—"Board met to consider bids for repairing court house. Contract entered into with Sharp Bros., of Marion, to do the work at a price of \$4,840."



OLD COURT HOUSE, EL DORADO, KANS.

John Ellis, Lafe Stone and Thomas Ohlsen were the county commissioners at this time. The lease with the city expiring in March, 1895, they decided to repair the old court house and build an addition on the west. Thus the west third was added to the old building. A petition was filed with Judge Shinn, asking him to grant an injunction against the commissioners, restraining them from using the county's funds, but it was denied. It was then taken to the supreme court, and that court sustained the decision of Judge Shinn.

The new court house: May 17, 1907, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by 2,060 resident tax payers, asking that said board construct and erect a court house and jail at El Dorado, the county seat of said county, the cost to be not less than \$50,000 and not to exceed \$60,000. Petition granted.

History of the new building: The legislature of 1907-08 passed a new court house law, the conditions of which were complied with, and the county commissioners took the initiatory steps to build a new court house. The question was carried to the district and supreme courts, the law was sustained and the commissioners proceeded with the work. George P. Washburn & Sons, of Ottawa, were employed as architects, and plans were adopted in July, 1908. Bids were then asked for and Mathein & Walter, of St. Joseph, Mo., were awarded the contract for the building for \$60,000 on August 5, 1908. Work was commenced early in September and the building completed and accepted September 10, 1909. Possession was taken in October, 1909. Contracts for heating, lighting, etc., were awarded separately and work accepted later.

Ideal location: In the center of a whole block in the business district, facing Central avenue, surrounded on the other sides with beautiful maple and elm trees, within a short distance of the new Santa Fe depot, and some nice residences, the court house certainly has an ideal location. The fact that the site of the first court house built by the county is a part of the present location makes it all the more valuable. The corner stone was laid December 3, 1908, by a Masonic service. Deputy Grand Master Fred Washburn, of Anthony, F. J. Stinson and J. B. Adams spoke. A box containing copies of the city newspapers, names of county commissioners, architects, builders and superintendent and many other articles were deposited in a metal box in the corner stone. On the left of the main entrance is an entablature two by four feet, of Bedford (Ind.) stone, inscribed: "This stone was laid by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Kansas, A. D. 1908, A. L. 5908. Henry F. Mason, Grand Master." On the corresponding stone, to the right of the door way, are these words: "County commissioners, S. R. Anderson, Peder Paulson, M. T. Minor; George Washburn & Sons, architects; Mathein & Walker, contractors; J. R. Switzer, superintendent."

The building: The new structure is 70x100 feet, three stories high, and a ground floor, or basement, is 100 feet from grade line to top of tower; has octagon corners which add much to the looks of the building; is built of brick, faced with pressed brick, trimmed with Bedford (Ind.) buff oolitic limestone, and has a roof of red tile. The structure is surmounted by a tower in which is located one of the best Seth Thomas clocks made, having illuminated dials, and was secured through J. W. Kirkpatrick, the jeweler. From this tower a good view of the town and county for miles around can be had. In front of the tower, in a conspicuous place, is the Goddess of Justice, and there is a flag pole on either end of the building.

At the main entrance of the building is a stone portico twelve feet wide and thirty-six feet long, having six massive stone colonial columns extending the full length of the building, with a balcony the same size leading from the court room to the second story. The portico floor is of Mosaic tile and has "Butler County Court House, 1909," inlaid therein.

Stone steps, twenty-four feet wide at the base and fourteen feet wide at the top, lead to the portico. The steps, as well as the buttresses on either side and the railing around the portico, are of Bedford (Ind.) stone. On either side of the approach is an electric light fixture.

The corridors are twelve feet wide, run the entire length of the building, the floors are of Mosaic tile and the wainscoting is of white glazed tile. There is a stairway at either end of each floor of the building, with iron frames and marble steps, making the building practically fireproof. All vaults are large, fireproof and are supplied with steel furniture, most of which came from the old building.

The floors are of hard wood, ceilings are cement and pressed metal, the finishing of the interior is quarter oak from cellar to garret, and the furniture, mostly made to fit the different offices, is of modern design in quarter oak. The walls and ceilings are the popular rough, rustic finish, painted with lead and oil. The interior decorations are all hand and stencil work, done by H. H. Mitchell, an artist in his line. The building has plumbing throughout for water and gas, is fitted with electricity and telephones and is heated with steam. Each room and hallway has a brass chandelier supplied with both gas and electricity, as well as side lights, while the porticos are fitted with nice lighting fixtures. All windows are supplied with Venetian blinds, and there are nice nickel-plated drinking fountains in the offices. The ground floor is a foot above the grade of the building, making it a good story. It is built of native stone and veneered with Bedford (Ind.) blue oolitic limestone—the same stone the government is using on its public buildings. It is well lighted and ventilated and has three entrances, one under the main entrance to the building and one on either end, with a handsome portico. On the ground floor is located a farmers' rest room, nicely furnished with chairs, settees, tables and other things for the convenience of the farmers, their wives and children, with a toilet room attached. A room for the Grand Army of the Republic is handsomely decorated with the national colors, cannons, swords, etc., the work of H. H. Mitchell, is free for the comrades. This room is nicely fitted up by the Grand Army of the Republic and Woman's Relief Corps. The cell room and sheriff's office, boiler and fuel room, janitor's office, two large storage vaults and public toilet rooms are also in the basement. As you ascend to the first floor from the portico, you enter a vestibule fourteen feet square, cut off from the main corridor by folding doors. To the right as you enter is the register of deeds office and his vault; to the left is the office of the probate judge and his vault. About the center of this floor is a fine porcelain drinking fountain. On the south side of the corridor are located the offices of county commissioners, county clerk and treasurer, each office having a large vault. The offices on the south side of the corridor are connected by communicating doors. You ascend to the second floor from either end of the corridor by a handsome and durable marble stairway. In the center of the building, on the second floor, extending across from north

to south, is the court room, 48x70 feet, with a 21-foot ceiling, splendidly ventilated. In the upper portion of court room to the south are six stained art glass transoms, giving a very pleasing effect. The room is handsomely decorated with heavy ornamental cornice and panel ceiling in relief, finished in colors and gold, and the wainscoting is of white glazed tile. The judge's bench, jury box and bar are located in the south end of the room. A railing separates these from the public. The court room has an elevated floor and is seated with opera chairs. There is a balcony on the north extending the full width of the court room, sixteen feet wide, entered from the third floor and seated with opera chairs, making the seating capacity over 300. The court room is lighted with two elaborate brass chandeliers, with twenty-five lights each, in addition to several wall lights. Connecting with the court room on the east is the offices of district clerk, sheriff and county attorney and their vaults. On the west side of the building on this floor are located the district judge's room and private office, court stenographer, witness room, attorneys' consultation room and toilet.

From the judge's private corridor on the third floor, a stairway leads to two jury rooms located on this floor, making them entirely secluded from the general public. There is a toilet room connected with each jury room. On the east side of the building on this floor is a corridor extending to the entrance of the court room balcony. From this corridor you enter the office of county superintendent and surveyor. A toilet room and private stairway leading to attic and clock tower are also connected with this corridor. The attic above makes a splendid store room.

Cost of building: The cost of the building, furniture and everything, furnished by County Clerk Arnold is given: Mathein & Walker, builders, \$62,540.30; R. R. Moore, plumbing and heating, \$4,515; J. Beeler, electric wiring, \$1,185; Topeka Steel Furniture Company, five omnibusses, \$300; Bailey & Reynolds, gas and electric fixtures, \$1,200; window screens, \$629.25; G. P. Washburn & Sons, architects, \$2,237.32; J. Q. McAfee, furniture, \$4,208; court house site, \$12,500; J. A. Switzer, superintendent building, \$750; Millison Office Supply, furniture, \$400; incidentals, \$1,350; total, \$91,714.87. When the grounds were completed, walks built and all work finished, the building cost about \$100,000.

Commissioners builded well: It is the general impression of the people of the county, as well as those connected with the erection of the court house, that Butler county has full value for every cent expended and has received far more for its money than several of the neighboring counties that have erected public buildings. The boards of county commissioners have been careful of the expenditures, always having in view the idea of building a structure that would best serve the interests of the county and be a credit to the people without being extravagant; had a few "extras" and everyone who visits the new edifice and looks it over carefully, says the commissioners "have builded well"

and are certainly to be congratulated on their success. It was no small duty to perform, but there is satisfaction to them in knowing the people are pleased to hear them say, "well done, good and faithful servants." When the work was commenced the county commissioners were Milton T. Minor, First district; Sol Anderson, Second district; Peder Paulson, Third district. This board started the work and made most of the con-



MURDOCK MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN.

tracts. In January the board changed to the following: Milton T. Minor, First district; William P. Bradley, Second district; William J. Houston, Third district. The new board took up the work with a vim that showed themselves to be business men, to be in a hearty accord with the movement and pushed it to a successful conclusion.

## EXTINCT TOWNS.

Extinct geographical locations: A list of "lost" towns, postoffices, settlements and trading posts in Butler county since 1857:

Arizona or Arizonia, 1857, near present site of Augusta; town site laid out by a party of prospectors. Aral, Pleasant township. Amador, Clifford township. Ayr, Plum Grove township. Britton, Southern Rock Creek township. Buffalo Town Company; not located by sections; incorporated February 12, 1858, for the purpose of laying out towns in Butler county. Bryant, Logan township, was located on Whitewater. A saw mill was located there at one time, operated by Dan Elder. Cariboo, Murdock township. Cave Springs, Spring township. Clear Ford, southern part of Rock Creek township. Chelsea Town Company, February 11, 1858; J. C. Lambdin, P. G. D. Morton, L. M. Pratt and G. F. Donaldson. Cleveland Town Company, all non-residents; no town located. Cornhill, north boundary Augusta township. Cretenden, founded in 1861, abandoned in 1865. Dixon, near Degraffe. Edgecomb, discontinued in 1882; Murdock township. El Dorado Town Company, in Hunter county at that time, afterward Irving county. Incorporated February 6, 1858, by J. Cracklin, Sam Stewart, David Uphen and others; located west of the Connor farm, on what is now the Jamison, Royce and White farms. Freedom, Bloomington township. Fontanelle, 1854, near Augusta; this town site infringed on the Arizona territory; a number of town lots were sold to eastern parties. Glen, location lost. Holden, Plum Grove township. Indianola, Benton township. Kossuth, chartered 1858, by J. Cracklin and others, who were non-residents; location lost. Lawrence, location lost. Little Walnut, established 1870, now Leon. Meade's Ranch, now Towanda. Minneha, now in Sedgwick county. Modena, Pleasant township. Mulberry Grove, location lost. Nellans, Fairmount township. New Excelsior, Glencoe township. New Milwaukee, founded 1870, abandoned 1880. Minnesk, location lost. Oil City, El Dorado township; first prospect for oil in Butler county. Ora, location lost. Overton, location lost. Providence, Richland township. Pendell, Benton township. Pine Grove, Rock Creek township. Plum Grove, near Potwin. Quito, on Little Walnut, on the Peter Johnson farm. Redden, Fairmount township. Smithfield, see Lorena. Schonholm, Lincoln township. Spring Branch, see Cariboo. Sycamore Spring, Sycamore township. Sunnyside, Logan township. Tolle, vacated in 1901; Union township. Walnut, Walnut township. Webster City, established in 1873; Bloomington township. Whitewater City, located in 1858; name changed to Ovo in 1882, extreme north of Clifford township.

## CHAPTER V.

### INDIAN HISTORY AND EARLY TIMES.

THE PLAINS—DAWN OF ERA—PRIMITIVE TIMES—FIRST SETTLEMENT—INDIAN PERILS AND SCARES—CHEROKEES COME—INDIAN TRADING POSTS—CAMPS—SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO 1870—SETTLEMENT IN 1857—DROUTH OF 1860—HOME DEFENSE COMPANY ORGANIZED—BUTLER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR—FIRST SETTLER IN EL DORADO—CHOLERA—EARLY SETTLERS—POSTOFFICE—FIRST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION—HOMESTEADING.

The plains—"I am the plains, barren since time began, waiting until man shall give me towns like children for my arms." Men are brought into this world and endowed with and possessed of certain characteristics, among which are ambition and imagination. These characteristics constitute the working power of the world and tend toward its fulfillment. They are the basis of discovery and settlement. They stand for enlightenment and advancement.

In the dawn of the era when civilization, pressing westward, entered claim for its own, man, urged by his ambition and inspired by his imagination, stood upon an elevation and beheld the plains primeval. There in the unhindered scope of his vision boundless rolling ranges stretched to endless skies; peaceful, restful hills and valleys lay in dreamy, sensuous slumber; timber edged streams wound up and down; unchained, unclaimed, unknown. Prairies of promise. Stretches of possibilities. A land in waiting. A land waiting the touch of the hand of man; waiting the touch of his magic wand of love and power and civilization. A touch that should call from sleep to life. A touch that should arouse from the years and the silence a potent dynamic force and quicken it toward its reckoning of the future. A force that should glean from barrenness a wonderful and glorious fruition for man's inheritance.

Wasted lands waiting the call unto a prolific fertile soil, that should produce that which is life-giving and life-sustaining; that should produce prosperity and contentment; that should produce manhood and womanhood; a citizenship that should give a thrill of pride by reason of being a part thereof. And man, visualizing the possibilities, claimed the kingdom. "This country shall be my country. These plains shall be my plains. These streams shall be my streams." Then those elected to

redeem it came unto the land preserved for them, and they set unto it boundaries. And it was a land exceedingly good.

Let us turn back the hour and traverse the years and the changes. A panorama touched with the brush of the master artist, the description of which is beyond the power of the pen. Picture the beginning; the wilds of the wolf and the coyote, the bounds of the buffalo, the deer, the elk and the antelope; the primitive home of the Red Man, his wigwam, his tribe, the little Indian village planted among the trees at the water's edge; the stream where the red children played and grew to the stature of men and took up the life of their fathers, hunting, fishing, sleeping, fighting, stealing and passing on to the Happy Hunting Grounds, thanking the Great Spirit for life and opportunity.

From that day look forward to this. Could imagination, stretched to its utmost limit, have pictured the changes? A new land, a new people. Old things have passed away, and, behold, all things are new. Not the Indian nor his wigwam, not the buffalo nor the deer, not the unfenced, untamed prairie nor the primitive condition of all nature, but the finished home of the white man, his houses, his barns, his prospering towns and growing businesses; while horses, cattle and sheep graze the hills and range the valleys. Instead of the primitive we have the civilized; instead of the wild, untamed soil, we have fields of grain and orchards of fruit; the wild has been subjected, the soil tamed and the desert caused to bring forth and blossom.

As man goes forth to his daily toil and beholds his barns and granaries, filled to the utmost, and realizes that the days of want and hunger and privation have passed him by, there comes to his mind in some form or another, uttered or unexpressed, the great prayer and thanks, giving "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

When the first settlement was made in Butler county, the lands south of the fifth standard parallel, which runs near the north line of the present city of El Dorado, were largely Indian property. Next south of that lay a twenty-mile strip, the property of the Osage tribe. This land was ceded to the government by the Little Osages on September 29, 1863, and was held as trust land. Next south lay the Osage reserve, a thirty-mile strip, which remained the property of the Indians until September 18, 1870, when it passed into the hands of the government and was opened for settlement. At the time of the settling of Kansas, the Indian had been placed on his reservation and required to stay there. The Indian has always been the most serious problem of the pioneer. A constant, anxious watch by day, a terrifying dread by night. His boldness and daring had been somewhat tempered by the punishment which had been brought upon his lawless outbreaks. The passing of years of defeat and constant retreat had dimmed the great warriors' spirit and somewhat subdued the fire of his soul.

It is doubtful if the Kansas pioneer ever faced Indian perils such as were endured by the early settlers of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, or the



more eastern States as they were in turn redeemed to civilization. Yet there were times of outbreak when the fiery spirits, consumed with desire to destroy, to burn, and to slay, would sweep down on the scattered and helpless settlements in the splendor of their savage war paint and the wild pandemonium of their cruel delight. The annals of Kansas are filled with bloody deeds and murders and massacres of the Indians. Butler county has been fortunate in having so few raids and murders



NORTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE, EL DORADO, KANS.

by the Indians. Yet some are recorded. Some occurred in the wilds of the territory before boundaries had made the land into counties.

The Indian held his kingdom undisturbed, save only by the occasional passing of a white man, his reign undisputed in the land which is now Butler county. He roamed at will in pursuit of the buffalo, or other wild game, until perhaps the year 1857. In that year a party of prospectors attempted a speculation in land, to which the Indians held title. Disputes arose over the boundary lines, and trouble came between the red man and the white. The Indians eventually proved their title, but

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not until after a settler had been killed by a band of Indians under Hard-robe, a chief of the Osage tribe. But for the most part friendly relations were maintained between the Indians and the settlers. The Indians would maybe steal or attempt small unfair dealing, but seldom was there an attempt of anything savage. Many of the early settlers speak with great liking of certain Indians, who had become their friends.

An occasional Indian scare served to frighten the scattered pioneers. The scares are recorded as furnishing a great deal of excitement, but without loss of life. In July, 1859, a report came from a party of Osages that a large band of Comanches was entering the county from west of the Whitewater, plundering and killing on the way. Chelsea was the general assembling point on these occasions. Settlers from the Walnut and the Whitewater gathered there for the purpose of uniting forces and battling against the foe. On this particular occasion, excitement ran riot. For two days anxious watch was kept. But the Indians never came, and the scare ended. Another Indian scare took place in May, 1868. Again the Indians were heralded as coming to burn, to slay and kill. This time the frightened settlers gathered together in El Dorado, the men mustering all the old guns available and taxing their brains for methods of killing an Indian. Ammunition was pitifully scarce, and the brave little band of pioneers could not have long withstood an attack from savage raiders. But this, too, passed away. After two nights' vigil and no molestation, the settlers returned to their homes. Later it was learned that a band of Cheyenne Indians had passed north of here, through Marion county, on the way to meet and fight the Kaws that were stationed there.

In February, 1862, a band of Cherokees came up the Walnut. Because they had been loyal to the Union, they had been driven by the rebels from their homes in the mid-winter. The weather was bitter cold and the ground covered with snow. The Indians were suffering terribly from cold and hunger. The hands and feet of many were frozen. They camped about two miles northeast of the present site of El Dorado, on what is now the James Teter farm. While waiting for relief from their agent at Lawrence, the settlers furnished good food and comfort. Six hundred bushels of corn and some oxen for beef were turned over to the sufferers. Martin Vaught and George Donaldson were among the good-hearted pioneers who were active in this deed, and never, said Mr. Vaught, has he seen a more grateful people. Some of the children were so starved they could not wait for food but ate raw corn and beef. The Cherokees were even then semi-civilized, and this band contained some as intelligent brains as the average white man. Many of this band afterward enlisted and made good soldiers for the Union. Several families remained on the Walnut until the close of the war.

A number of Indian trading posts were established in Butler and some of the towns of the county were thus begun. In the early sixties a small store was kept by Stone and Dunlap, famous Indian traders, on

the site of old El Dorado. This is where the "California trail" and the "Osage trail" crossed the Walnut river. In 1863, Hagan and Morrow, two traders, established a trading post south of Augusta, between the Walnut and Whitewater rivers. Two years later they sold to Daniel Stine, who continued the business. The big spring at Towanda and the wide grass bottoms about it formed an inviting camping spot and there the Indians pitched their tents and let out their ponies. To the great spring in 1863 came J. R. Mead and opened a trading post. This place, afterward named Towanda, was widely known at that time as Mead's Ranch. There he exchanged blankets, trinkets and trappings dear to the Indian's heart, for buffalo robes, furs and peltries. The Indians came from the south and west and camped there. Probably as many as twenty different tribes. The government sent Agent Major Milo Gaskins to look after the various Indian bands and he established his agency at that place.

Mr. Mead, in *Kansas Historical Collections*, Vol. 10, mentions these Indian camps in 1863:

"In 1863 there came from the south camps of Kickapoos, Shawnees, Delawares and others who settled on the Walnut and Whitewater. These Indians were the friends of all the wild Indians of the plains, and so long as they remained the southwestern frontier was safe from hostile attack. The Kickapoos I mentioned lived in the Indian Territory, or Texas, and were kinfolks and friends of the Kickapoos in Old Mexico. At the close of the Civil war, or about the fall of 1866, they outfitted at my place (Mead's Ranch on the Whitewater, present location of Towanda) and all left for Old Mexico directly across the county. They knew the country well, and were the finest body of Indians I ever met—brave, honorable, noble and were expert hunters. There were not over thirty men with families. Their lodges were models of neatness and comfort. The Shawnees and Delawares I mentioned also lived in the Indian Territory before the Civil war and returned."

In 1875 a band of 500 Pawnee Indians passed through Butler county on the way to a reservation in Oklahoma. They were in camp north of Towanda and again south of there. They were visited in both camps by many from the vicinity around, especially the young people of the day, with whom there was much bantering and joking. The old Indian days are passed beyond recall. Seldom is now seen a red man, but the old settler recalls with thrills and interest the dangers and escapes, the experiences and friendships of the days of the American Indian. Respect to his memory.

Settlement Prior to 1870—By first settlers, I refer to those early pioneers who came here for the purpose of making a home. Those sturdy men and women, who came with an empire in their hearts and a determination in their brain, reinforced by the brawn to withstand. They who came to suffer and endure and accomplish; to experience hardship, to do all things at whatever cost, to conquer and subdue the soil and reap

the harvest of victory. They that wrought higher than poetry, carved deeper than marble, and builded for themselves a monument as enduring as time. I mean not the migratory individual found on the frontier, coming ahead of civilization and fleeing before it, as do the wild animals that are opposed to and cannot meet civilizing influence. There were probably a few settlers in the county as early as 1854. Men who located along the streams established cattle ranches and trading posts. But very little, if anything, was done in the way of farming or attempting to make homes at that time.

There is an account of an attempt to establish a settlement in 1857. A party of prospectors laid out a town site, near the present site of Augusta. To this was given the name Arizonia. A few months later another party, infringing the Arizonia territory, platted the town of Fontanelle. Town lots were sold to Eastern parties whose hopes were for money quickly and easily. Hopes that might have been realized save for altercation with the Indians and disputes for the title of the land, in which the red man proved his claim. But authentic record of



EARLY STREET SCENE, EL DORADO, KANS.

settlement begins with the advent of William Hilderbrand in May, 1857. William Hilderbrand was the first settler in what is now Butler county. He located on the Walnut river on the site where the first El Dorado was afterward located. Later Hilderbrand sold this and moved to an adjoining claim. This claim was afterward bought by the late Jerry D. Connor, whose home it was for many years. Clarence King now owns and resides on the place.

In June, 1857, Samuel Stewart, of Lawrence, organized a colony to settle in Butler county. They followed the old California trail to the

point where it crossed the Walnut—this was also the crossing of the Osage trail—and there they pitched their tents, ten wall tents arranged in a circle, and in the center the raised Stars and Stripes. This was June 15, 1857. Two days later the colonists planted corn. This was the first corn planting in Butler county. The names of some of this colony were, besides Samuel Stewart, Captain J. Cracklin, A. B. Searle, T. B. Swift and Thomas Cordiss. They formed a town company, purchased the claim which had been taken by William Hilderbrand, and there made the first location of El Dorado. July 9, 1857, William Crimble, William Bemis, H. Bemis, Jacob Carey, Henry Martin, with their families, and ten other families, whose names have been lost, settled near to El Dorado. In October, 1857, Madison and Butler counties polled sixty-nine Free State and Seven Democratic votes. At the election under the Lecompton constitution, December 21, 1857, there is no record of returns from Butler county, but on August 2, 1858, at an election on the Lecompton constitution, held on the old El Dorado town site, there is a record of twenty-three votes—the entire vote polled—cast against that platform. In 1858 and 1859 Butler county had about fifty actual settlers. Prominent among those early timers stand the names of Jerry Connor, James Gordy, Martin Vaught, George Donaldson, J. C. Lambdin, Archibald Ellis and Prince Gorum Davis Morton.

In the summer of 1860 came drouth—drouth that is not equaled in the annals of Kansas. For three months there was not one drop of rain. All things green were turned to yellow and brown; grass withered, crops burned; the streams became dry, and the fish died on their barren beds; great cracks opened in the earth, until one could not with safety ride across the fissured prairies. In August of that depressed summer came the first visitation of the grasshoppers. A large number of discouraged settlers left the state at that time and the vicissitudes of that year worked a far reaching hindrance against the settlement and progress of Kansas. During the years of the Civil war but few new settlers came to Butler county. In 1861 a company for home defense was organized under the command of P. G. O. Morton, of Chelsea.

The late J. D. Connor wrote for the Walnut Valley Times, March 8, 1895, a detailed account of the members and services of this company. This is copied as follows: "On account of the terrible drouth of 1860 there were so many people returned to their old homes in "the States" that in '61 there were probably not more than 300 white people of all ages within the territory now included in Butler county. Of course, matters pertaining to the war were discussed here, as all over the country, and it had a peculiar interest for us, being on the extreme frontier and subject to raid, both from Indians and the rebs from Texas and the Cherokee nation. In the summer of '61 a company was organized for local protection, with P. G. D. Morton, of Chelsea as captain. We had no regular duties or plan of meeting, but were subject to call at any time. The latter part of November we received word that there was a large train

of government wagons coming in from the west and headed toward Arkansas on the old California trail, which crossed Whitewater about where Amos Adams lives now, and the Walnut on John B. Stone's farm below El Dorado. As all intercourse in that direction was prohibited at that time, we concluded that there was something wrong, so the company assembled at old El Dorado. In the meantime, the train, consisting of about thirty wagons such as were used by government freighters at that time, each drawn by six yoke of oxen, had passed us, but it was decided to overhaul and bring it back—if we could. We started after them with about thirty men and overhauled them in camp on the head of Hickory creek. We surrounded the camp and ordered them to surrender, which they did without making trouble. They had about the same number of men that we had and if they had shown fight we must have fared badly. Three years' experience later convinced some of us that that was an awkward job, though successful. On the return we camped for the night on a little branch of Hickory, and to this day it seems the most disagreeable night I ever experienced. It rained and sleeted all night. There was no wood to make fire and by morning we were chilled to the marrow. We returned to the Walnut and went into camp on the farm now owned by James Teter. After resting the oxen a few days, we started the outfit with an escort to Ft. Lincoln, where it was learned that the train belonged to Majors & Rensch, of Leavenworth, from whom it was stolen and to whom it was eventually returned. The men were turned loose. We then established a regular camp, built breastworks of logs and dirt, though not laid out with much engineering skill, drew tents and some rations from the government, and made it headquarters till the spring of '62, when, tiring of camp life on Walnut, twenty-six of us, with Mathew Cowley at the head, went to Iola, were regularly enlisted into the United States service and, together with some boys from Fall River, made up Company L, Ninth Kansas cavalry. Following is a list of the members: J. D. Connor, Burge W. Atwood, David Upham, Joel Darius, Thomas, B. E., R. W. and Charles W. Wells, Wesley C., Thomas A., Jonathan and Josiah Hager, James and Thomas Craft, Wilson M. and John B. King, D. L. McCabe, Thomas B. White, A. L. Petrie, W. R. Cowley, Joyney Howell, Jake Landis, Jim Shipley, Norman Chapman and Dan Cupp.

In addition to these, Jim Thomas, Josh Lambdin, Charley and Frank Harrison joined the Eleventh—Col. P. B. Plumb's regiment; W. H. Thomas, Bod DeRacken and Jerry Woodruff joined the Fifth; Moses and Louis Thomas, Company G of the Ninth; Ralph Lambdin drifted into the First Colorado; Martin Vaught, Dan Cupp, and, I think, George T. Donaldson, joined the Seventeenth. J. C. Lambdin and P. G. D. Morton were in the quartermaster's department. There may have been others whom I do not now recall. At any rate, it was a very large per cent of the able-bodied men in the county at the time. The six Wells boys—brothers, and all six-footers—lived with their parents on the farm

now owned by W. E. Stone on West Branch. Three of them deserted, claiming that they could not remain in the service and save their souls, but each one of them managed to get away with a government horse and revolver when he left. The Hager boys lived at the falls on the White-water, now owned by J. W. Robison. The company was commanded by Capt. G. N. F. Read, now of Burlington, this State, and no better soldier wore the blue. Cowley was our first lieutenant while he lived and was loved and respected by every member of the company. He died of malarial fever at Little Rock and was buried there in the military cemetery. Burge Atwood was our first orderly sergeant and Dan Upham the last. Alec Petrie was bugler and seemed to take special delight in blowing reveille, for which he got many a blessing, or whatever it might be called; but wherever he was he was the life of the company. McCabe was our farrier, though it was harder work than he liked to do. After the muster-out we sent him to the legislature from this county. Poor Tom White died on the march on the Santa Fe trail between the Little Arkansas and Cow creek and was buried at sunset on the bank of that little stream. During the years '62 and '63 the company did duty among the Indians on the plains, and in the spring of '64 their regiment was consolidated and ordered into Arkansas, where we were thumped around till the final muster-out in the spring of '65. Of the boys who went from here in the old company, but few returned. Some were killed—more died of disease, till now there are only Ben King and myself to answer roll-call in the Walnut valley." Ben King died several years ago, and Mr. Connor himself passed away at Long Beach, Cal., December, 1915. Thus all are gone.

Jacob Schaffer was probably the first man to locate on the present site of El Dorado, though his claim was not entered until 1868. His claim lay on the west branch of the Walnut, and extended across it. The cabin was located, presumably, about where the city building now stands. Here he kept a small stock of supplies. In 1867 two brothers named Moorehead moved into this cabin and opened up a small store. This is believed to be the first store on the site of the present city of El Dorado, and which is about two miles north of the original location. That same year a regular store was opened by E. L. Lower.

In the fall of 1867 there was an invasion of cholera in southern Kansas, which included Butler county. A detachment of the Fifth United States infantry, under the command of Col. Thomas F. Barr, was stationed on the Little Arkansas near the present location of Wichita, and these troops brought the cholera with them. A dozen or more of the settlers of this county and a great many Indians died from the disease. Hon. J. R. Mead, in writing of this time, makes this mention of the death of a member of his household: "Among those who died of cholera in the fall of 1867, in Butler county, was Sam Carter, my faithful clerk and all-round useful man. He died at my house at Towanda. Sam Fulton and Doc Shirley, of Wichita, who happened to be at my house,

and myself worked over him all night; then after his death, washed and dressed the body and next day buried him, reading the burial services."

In March, 1868, B. F. Gordy entered 160 acres of land, which is now all the part of El Dorado south of Central avenue. The town site was laid out about one month later. In July, 1868, A. G. Davis, William Vann, with several others, located in Towanda township, and about the same time D. L. McCabe located in Rock Creek township. In July, 1869, Philip Karns settled in Rosalia township and Holland Ferguson in Fairmount township. Below is given a record of the first settlement in the different localities of Butler up to the year 1870, with the locations as designated by the present name of the township. This list is taken from a compilation of Jerry D. Connor, Martin Vaught and Daniel M. Bronson, made from data they had in possession: 1857, May, El Dorado township, William Hilderbrand. 1857, August, Chelsea township, Bob Deracken, G. T. Donaldson, P. G. D. Morton, J. C. Lambdin, I. Scott, Martin Vaught, Dr. Lewellyn, Charles Jefferson, J. and L. Cole. 1859, Clifford township, William Badley. 1860, Plum Grove township, Joseph H. Adams. 1866, April, Spring township, Dave and H. W. Yates. 1866, Walnut township, George Long. 1867, Bloomington township, Samuel Rankin. 1868, April 13, Benton township, J. P. J. Nelson. 1868, July, Rock Creek township, D. L. McCabe. 1868, July, Towanda township, A. G. Davis, William Vann, Chandler Atwood and others. 1869, Spring and Pleasant townships, Marion Franklin. 1869, May, Bruno township, V. Smith. 1869, July, Rosalia township, Philip Karns. 1869, Fairmount township, Holland Ferguson. 1860, Hickory township, Mr. Myers. 1870, April 2, Union township, A. L. McKee. There is added this further list of settlers who came to the county, most of them preceding the year 1874, and who have since been prominent in its history: Daniel Stine, Augusta township; L. M. Pratt, father of Dick and John, Chelsea township; James R. Mead, Towanda township; W. H. Avery, Clifford township; Daniel H. Cupp, Towanda township; M. A. Palmer, Little Rock township; Charles R. Noe, Little Walnut township; Alvin Palmer, Augusta township; the Douglass boys, Joseph W. William and Walter H., Douglass township; Gilbert T. Green and family, Towanda township (Mr. Green was the father of seventeen children, eleven of whom accompanied him to Kansas); Jefferson G. and Harrison Stearns, Towanda township; James and Andrew J. Ralston, Towanda township; and Rev. Isaac Mooney and family, Towanda township.

Postoffice—The nearest established postoffice when the first settlement was made in Butler county was at Lawrence. Box 400 was rented by the settlers of the county, and mail so addressed was brought down to Emporia by means of a tri-weekly hack between that place and Lawrence. From Emporia mail was sent down to Butler by anybody who happened to be passing that way. The first distributing station in the county was established at Chelsea in 1858, with C. S. Lambdin as postmaster. The second postoffice in the county was established at El Dorado in 1860, with D. L. McCabe as postmaster.



Fourth of July—The very first celebration of this national holiday in this county happened, it is recorded, long before Butler was a county or Kansas a territory. Cutler, in his History of Kansas, says: "In July, 1847, Capt. J. J. Clark, with his company of Missouri mounted volunteers, bound for the Mexican war, came along the old California trail and, crossing the Walnut about a mile below the site of El Dorado, on the evening of the third of July, camped over for the night. The following day the eagle screamed and the salutes were fired and due honors paid to the warriors of an older day." But it was ten years later, July 4, 1857, that occurred the first real celebration in Butler county, the second on Butler county land. This was held by the settlers, on the site of old El Dorado. The settlers had but just arrived and no houses had been provided. The wagons were ranged in a circle for protective service in case of an attack by the Indians. Cutler has to say of this occasion: "Money was scarce in that camp, and had it been as plentiful as sea sands it could have purchased nothing; so the men started out to find in nature's storehouse the material for a feast. In the Walnut, William Crimble caught a large buffalo fish, Samuel Stewart shot a wild turkey and another of the party brought in a deer. While these supplies were being prepared numbers of speeches served to show the patriotism of the various members, and Judge Wakefield, of Lawrence, delivered an address. There is no time like the first in anything, and though often a celebration of later days has been memorable, and its echoes have rung in memory's ears for many a day, there can be none to efface in the hearts of those who heard them the resonant sounds of the years ago." Another Fourth of July celebration of a decade later has been graphically described by Mrs. D. M. Bronson, now Mrs. C. E. Dickinson, and mother of Mrs. C. E. Thompson, of El Dorado.

"Our first Fourth of July celebration occurred in 1868, which eclipsed anything I had ever seen for pure, unadulterated patriotism and practically illustrated freedom. The grove near Dr. Gordon's was selected for the purpose. The preparations were elaborate, seats were improvised, a speaker's stand erected; an old army flag was resurrected out of some dark corner and suspended in graceful folds from the limb of a tree just over the head of the speakers, which was both inspiring and effective. A public dinner was the order of the day. The men reconnoitered around to secure the financial requisite. The women were occupied preparing the "grub" the day arrived and all went merry as a marriage bell! The sun shone brightly, the birds sang sweetly and all nature seemed in unison with our hearts.. The marshal of the day was Mr. Elisha Main. The exercises were introduced by singing the 'Star Spangled Banner,' which was executed with spirit, and what was lacking in time was supplied in sound. Father Stansberry offered a prayer; the Declaration of Independence was read by W. T. Gallagher; orations were then delivered by D. M. Bronson and W. T. Gallagher, which were both eloquent and patriotic and so vivid in portrayal that we could al-

most see the noble bird in his aerial gyrations, and hear the footfall of the Pilgrim Father on the barren Plymouth Rock. The Declaration, our glorious magna charta, was literally worn out, what there was remaining of it would hardly make a gun wad. After the exercises closed the table was prepared, looking inviting enough to please the most fastidious epicure. But here came the tug of war. There were about ten bachelors to one woman in the country. All hungry, lean and lank, they made one grand forward march for the table. In about five minutes that table was bare. One lady, approaching me with a countenance indicative of sorrow, said: 'Have you seen anything of my fruit cake, the first one I have seen or made since I left old England's shores?' I told her I supposed it had gone to hunt up my dried apple pies. I did come near on this occasion of being converted to the doctrine of total depravity. The day's exercises closed with a grand ball over Henry Martin's store. This was our first dress ball."

Homesteading—The United States land office was located at Humboldt until October, 1870, when it was removed to Augusta, with Andrew Akin, registrar, and W. A. Shannon, receiver. The office remained in Augusta only until early in 1872, when it was removed to Wichita, where it remained until practically all the land in Butler county had been entered. The southern portion of the county as far north as the north line of section 30, in township 26, a strip twenty miles wide was known originally as the Osage Indian reserve. It is said this land was promised to the Osage Indians as long as "grass grew or water run," but the government in 1863 purchased the lands and removed the Indians to a reserve farther south. The reserve was then made pre-emption land and was sold to actual settlers at \$1.25 per acre. Conditions and restrictions obliged the settler to make certain improvements, sufficient to show his good faith in taking the land for a home.

The remainder of the county north was disposed of to actual settlers under the homestead laws of the United States. The entire north portion was homesteaded except the odd numbered sections for a distance of twenty miles from the line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad. This land was donated to the railroad company to assist it in construction of the railroad through the state. The first donation was for ten miles on either side of the railroad, but afterward on account of a portion of the said odd numbered sections having been entered, the company was given an additional ten miles. In 1872 it was discovered that the company was claiming lands beyond the twenty-mile limit. A resurvey was had and a number of acres was turned subject to homestead entry. This land in Butler county was principally in Fairview and Benton townships. There was a small strip of land about fifteen rods wide between the two surveys, caused by a failure to make connections in surveying. This strip was called, or miscalled, the neutral strip. It, like the land on the north was subject to homestead entry.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

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REAL SETTLEMENT—PIONEER WOMEN—ERECTION OF SAW MILLS—PIONEER LIFE—AMUSEMENTS—GRASSHOPPER YEAR—DEVASTATION—REACTION—BRIGHTER HOPES—"SLEEP, OLD PIONEER"—AFTERWARDS—PUBLIC ENTERPRISES—PROSPERITY—NOW.

Real Settlement—In 1867 or 1868 real settlement was begun in Butler county. Many quarter sections were homesteaded and pre-empted, much land was broken and farmers settled down to the business of making homes and accumulating property. The tide of immigration turned in this direction. The white-covered "prairie schooners" began to arrive, and from that time on until 1874, "grasshopper year," they were always in sight, bringing those men through whose veins coursed the best blood of the race of mankind. Men, energetic, ambitious, optimistic, courageous. And they came with the mystic power of looking into the future, of seeing beyond the present boundaries into the invisible future; home-seeking men, trusting to the lands of Butler county their future and their families.

And here let me speak a word for those women of the early days, those loyal women who accompanied to the plains the men of their choice; women of refinement and culture; forsaking father, mother, relations, girlhood friends of the years; leaving homes, if not of luxury, yet of comfort, a roof to shelter, a bed for rest, a stove for warmth and cooking; to cook over a camp fire; to live upon meager necessities; to sleep in comfortless corners; to forget the sight of new garments. Brave, uncomplaining women, doing their duty, meeting trials, overcoming difficulties, getting along without, giving up the essentials of enjoyment and happiness; timid, lone women at times left alone with the doleful sound of the prairies, and neighbors not for twenty miles. Pioneer woman, going down into the valley without the comfort of a sister woman, awaiting the uncertain call of an unskilled doctor—but a doctor who spared not his efforts to help; and at last awakening to that joy that only a mother has ever known, the knowledge that out of her travail has come a man child, into her home and into her world. Then she goes about with a song of gladness, performing the duties of the house, and after that often going into the field to help her husband.

Where would be the boasted civilization of Butler county today, save for the pioneer wives and mothers who took and kept their places side by side with the pioneer men. Women with woman's refinement and power to comfort; women of endurance and able to compel men to higher things. The high standard of citizenship, the civic righteousness of Butler county today, the schools, the churches and all things, which tend to make this county desirable for home and family are the material results wrought from the inspiring influence of the brave, noble women of the frontier.

The immigration continued, settlers multiplied. The bottom lands, and after that the uplands, began to be occupied. Houses began to increase along the streams. "Box" houses and caves in the hillside were used for dwelling places for "proving up" on the claims.

The need for homes brought into the county the first enterprise of a public character—the erection of saw mills. These were located from time to time at Chelsea, El Dorado, Little Walnut, Douglass, Augusta, Towanda and Plum Grove. None of these mills are in present use. With the saw mill came the cutting and sawing of timber, and board shacks appeared on the uplands. These seldom contained more than two rooms, one inside and the other out. But somewhere in the attic or on the wall was the guest chamber. No matter where he was from or who he happened to be, a welcome always awaited the visitor. And "such as I have, give I unto thee." Perhaps only corn meal and salt pork, with a cup of Arbuckle's coffee—but given with that good will and hospitality that today still characterizes the Kansas people.

Many hardships and privations were encountered and lived. Problems were met and solved that the present generation would hesitate to undertake. And the chief one of them all was to make one dollar do the work of nine. But in those homes and among those people, the hardships and privations notwithstanding, there were formed friendships as lasting as time. Everyone was willing to divide the little he had with his neighbor. Any article for house use or any implement for farming—and all were scarce—was always at the neighbor's service, whether a neighbor of a mile or of ten miles distant. It is known as a fact that a bacon rind used to grease the griddle for corn or wheat cakes has been loaned around a neighborhood. But in those primitive homes were brought up the boys and girls that are the men and women of the county today. Sturdy, self-reliant, capable men and women that have shaped the destiny of this county, and who are yet furthering their efforts by precept and example to make Butler county the greatest and grandest land of homes on earth. Every man a king, every woman a queen, and whose confidence in their ability to overcome, and their faith in the promises of almighty God laid the foundation of a community of right-thinking, right-living, God-fearing people. And the boys and girls of those other boys and girls, whose blood contains no taint of the saloon or brothel, whose inspirations are the memories of the clean lives of their

ancestry, and whose aspirations are to build yet greater, aim higher and leave the impress of their lives unto future generations.

The period of from 1868 to 1874 is the period of the true early settlement in the history of the county. It is the period usually referred to as the "early day" and the period of reminiscences. Also it is the time of the arrival of the "official" old settler, an "old settler" being defined in the constitution and by-laws of various organizations as "one who came to Kansas prior to grasshopper year." These were the days of earnest purpose, days of good will to all, days of the fullness of life, days without social strivings and days without class distinction, but a loyal people from many lands, met together on a common ground, with common ends and common pleasures. "For with this simple people, who lived like brothers together; all things were held in common, and what one had was another's."



BOATING SCENE ON THE WALNUT RIVER.

For amusement or entertainment the neighbors visited. They talked over times back east, where they were from, why they left (some of them) and why they located in Butler county. On Sunday there was either a horse race or preaching. The horse racing on Sunday soon died out, the preaching continued and along with the preaching services came the Sunday school, and in the opinion of the writer, a greater per cent of the people attended then than now. For the younger set, there was riding on horseback (or ponies rather). And when the boys could raise the two-bits or the four-bits necessary to pay the fiddler, they would gather for from two to twenty miles for a dance, and 'twould be "dance all night till broad daylight," with an intermission for refreshments.

These consisted of cove oysters and crackers, with bologna on the side and home roasted coffee (and they were mighty good).

One of the most noted and longest remembered dances was held in Towanda in the fall of 1871. One E. G. Richards had erected a two-story building about 25x40 feet. There were two rooms below and one above, the stairway being on the outside. The building was constructed of the ordinary sheeting lumber sixteen feet long (which was the height of the building) and stood upright. The upper story was the "hall." The music consisted of one organ operated by Mrs. J. H. Dickey; one piccalo, for which Dan Overocker furnished the motive power, and one fiddle (before the days of the violin) required to talk under the direction of W. C. Wait, father of one of our present county commissioners. And the old-timers, "Turkey in the Straw," "Devil's Dream," "Fisher's Horn-pipe," "Arkansas Traveler," and others similar, and the square dances, the old folk-dances, Virginia reel, money musk and others did duty that night if never before or since. Also a banquet was spread for this occasion. The menu is remembered as follows: Cove oysters, roast pork, bread and butter, ginger bread, prunes, dried apple pie, dried peaches and milk and hot coffee. What more could be wished. Neither were there tables for serving, but a plate was held on the lap, and very few spilled the contents of their plates on the floor. A number went out from El Dorado to take in this society event. Among these were George J. Hartman, Miss Hartman, Will Julian, N. F. Frazier and Miss Emma Crook, who afterward became Mrs. N. F. Frazier, and both of whom are gone from us. And always at a Fourth of July celebration was the platform dance the popular amusement. Of course, then, as now speeches were made, but also no one heard them any more then than they do now. But "on with the dance, let joy be unconfined," kept the platform busy until the early hours, or until the fiddler ceased fiddling from sheer exhaustion. Even, mayhap, from another reason, when the same tune began to go round and round in unceasing success, the hint went out that it was time to mount your ponies and go home.

Another popular amusement of this period was the amateur theatrical. Home talent plays, ranging from "Handy Andy" to "Mad Nance" never failed of thrills both in front and behind the curtain. The home troupe always played to crowded houses and real appreciation. Later there came periodically through the county the traveling repertoire companies. Favorite of all these was "Louie Lord," star of the eighties in Butler county. Other talented "families," as the Davis family and the musical DeMoss family' became almost as familiar to us as friends. Other pastimes were the singing schools and the spelling schools that buzzed and hummed with excitement. The name of the occasion mattered not. The enthusiasm of light hearts and free life carried it along on joyful wings. And any or all of these times must call forth a ride across the prairies, often of many miles. But blow cold, blow hot, it mattered not, young life was ready to go and young hearts

beat with gladness. The boys and girls of the early days got all out of life there was in it. They worked with a will, they played with a will. Clans and cliques were unknown, each one needed the other.

Thus the time passed on. The land was tilled, the soil cultivated, the people were happy and reasonably prosperous, till came the year of 1874. The seed was sown and the harvest planted. But the summer came on and there was no rain. The sky continued a burned-out blue, the grasses withered, the few forest and fruit trees planted began to droop. Farmers began to inquire of each other of the prospect for crops; farmers not disheartened, only fearful. Each one with the spirit of Kansas optimism tried to encourage the other, while at the same time cheering himself; and all scanned the sky for the clouds that came not.

Grasshopper Year—And August came, the month from which all things in Kansas since that time are dated. And the sun shone, and the sky carried day after day a gun metal lining. The hot, dry, ceaseless wind from the south burned the faces of men and seared the life of nature. Crops withered, grasses of the prairie drooped and cried for moisture. Dumb animals, domestic or wild, stood motionless. Then came noon of the seventh day of that memorable month. There fell over the land a dimness of the sun, like unto dust upon a window pane. Following this a sound as if a rushing wind, or as of swallows leaving a chimney; then pat, pat, pat, faster and faster and faster upon the doors came that which caused strong men to bow themselves, and women to cry out in despair. And the land of promise became a land of blight, of shattered hopes and of disappointment. The great black cloud swept down, and thus the grasshopper came, came with his kindred, his ancestry and all their descendants; like "the arrow that flieth by day and the pestilence that walketh in darkness, the terror by night and the destruction that wasteth at noonday." Not by thousands, nor by tens of thousands, but like unto the sands of the seashore that no man could number. A hoard of hungry, leaping, hopping, flying insects; a buzzing of wings and a sound like the rushing of waters; they came with such speed and velocity that contact with a solid substance often stunned or killed.

Persons were compelled to protect their faces for fear of injury to the eyesight. Animals turned from them as they would from storm or hail. It was impossible to drive a team against them, and almost as impossible to keep control of it when driving with them. Frightened stock stampeded and in frenzy ran heedless, perhaps not to return. Alighting in headlong speed, the pests settled layer upon layer until the land was covered. There lay over Butler county a solid covering of from two inches to two feet in depth; and there was drifted against the hedges or anything that retarded progress a depth of writhing plague of from two to four feet. Wagon tracks were filled until driving over them sounded like the eating of onion or chewing dill pickles. A hungry, famished, voracious, greedy, greasy, repulsive, devouring insect. "Longing,

they look, and gasping at the sight, devour here'o'er and o'er with vast delight." Eating, eating, eating, eating and destroying. The settler's few remaining vegetables, in his withered garden, everything, except onions, was taken in a twinkling. Clothes hanging on the line were consumed before they could be rescued. Even the clothesline itself was eaten. Corn standing in the field, giving some promise of crop, was left looking like a field of dry sticks. Like a field for which peas had been planted, and carefully staked, but no vines bloomed. Only an arid stake about two feet high remained, from which the every blade, the ear, the silk, the tassel and the top of the stalk were eaten.

I remember one desolate field as described above, in which was left one lone, solitary volunteer stalk of sorghum. Passed by the grasshoppers, it waved its top and blades back and forth over the destruction around it, looking grand, gloomy and peculiar. Judge A. L. L. Hamilton relates that there were also saved in Butler county, besides the lonely sorghum stalk for which I bear witness, two fairly good crops of corn. One of these fields was preserved by the placing of straw, recently thrashed, on the windward side of the field. By keeping this burning the smoke became a defense against the plague. The other field was shielded by its position, being surrounded by timber. And, by the queer freak that is often played in the visitations of Providence, it was left unfound, and so untouched.

Every leaf upon every tree, and even the very bark itself, was consumed by the devouring pest. Eating the gauzy netting at the windows the noisy, gnawing, consuming blight seized upon the hard-earned homes of the settlers. Grasshoppers in the flour bins, in the milk pans, in the water buckets, in everything; the curtains and carpets, clothings and bed clothing until nothing was left. Even articles of wood were attacked, beds, chairs, tables, were left perforated with a million holes. This was true also of the wooden parts of tools and implements, such as the hoe or rake handles; harnesses and flynets, of whatever material; in fact, only solid iron itself served as a barrier to the million-mouthed appetite. Eating, eating and never satisfied with a noise like hungry pigs munching their kaffir. And nothing remained safe save only the houses, the sheds, the animals and a few stalks of sorghum. Chickens and other poultry, even the hogs, gorged on the insects and died in great numbers. But as these would have escaped only to die of starvation later, it worked no additional hardship to the farmer. Then when the land was barren the grim visitors left. But before going they deposited a certificate of their return. Eggs were left in a ground honey-combed with cells. This stood a menace before the settler the winter long. After the passing of the grasshopper the sight was one awful to contemplate, fearful to look upon, terrible to behold. The land lay desolate as though a whirlwind of devastation had passed over, and the pioneer saw his county dreary, dismal, doleful, lonely and forbidding. A great pall had settled upon the community. Surely those were days that tried men's souls. As a realiza-



tion of the calamity grew upon the struggling settlers they became as souls bewildered, stunned or dazed. They appealed to each other in a manner that was pathetic as helpless children asking help from someone that was as helpless as they themselves. Small wonder that steps grew laggard, that energy and ambition weakened, that head drooped on the shoulder, while everything in nature seemed to say "man was made to mourn."

But the re-action came. The spirit of the pioneer Kansan began to assert itself. Calamity and misfortune were met with an indomitable, invincible will that suffers, endures and finally overcomes. The far larger portion of the early settlers who had decided for Butler county for their homes renewed this decision in the firm determination of their hearts. They took a new grip and made ready for the battle for bread for those dependent upon them. They plowed and planted, they managed in some way to live until the soil again produced something to live upon. True, some returned to the East to stay until seed time came again, and some to come back no more. True, the aid sent by eastern friends was timely and tided many a home to new life and fortune. This aid, the grateful hearts of Butler county were rejoiced to repay, when the privilege came in later years. (See account). True, also, of the autumn and winter of '74 that no new dresses were bought that season. Last year's bonnet was good enough for this year. The patches upon the men's clothing and boots were a little larger. Pockets were empty and hunger sometimes present. The boys and girls wended their way to school thinly and poorly clad but with intellects strengthened by adversity—lacking, not luxuries, but necessities. Their interests were not divided with the follies of fashion, nor their minds set aside from the business of learning. The hardships and privations seemed to increase in the pioneer his determination to stay, and one of his boasts is today: "I was here during grasshopper year, and I stayed."

In the spring of seventy-five the young grasshoppers began to appear. But this visitation, forestalled by precaution and as much as possible by the destruction of the eggs, was not so disastrous as anticipated. And as the balmy spring breezes came from the southland, there sprung in the hearts on the devastated frontier a thrill of gladness, of joy, of hope and of faith in the future. Blood coursed more rapidly through the veins, steps regained their spring and prospects grew brighter. A county of prospects by which the planter lives, hopes and prospects so allied they reach the end of the road together. And while mostly the end is in fruition, yet in times the road traveled has been rough and well nigh impassable, but in the event the way is lost and the goal unreachd, strength is ever at hand for a new start. And new hopes and new prospects keep the soul alive, while the heart beats time to the measure of "success, next time." It is this spirit which combats and conquers that has made Butler county what it is today. The wisdom and judgment of the sturdy pioneer who stayed has long since been evidenced. The grass-

hopper has not returned. It will not. Dry weather has been, hot winds have been, storm and flood have been, but on the whole Butler county stands best and surest in the world for crops. I have personally witnessed forty-six crop seasons here, and with never a total failure. Never a year but something material has been produced. Never one acre but upon which something can be raised. And one sure crop not affected by draught, heat, storms, hot winds, cyclones, good times or bad seasons, is the crop of good fellowship, true friendship, and genuine philanthropy—these never fail.

Sometimes, it is true, a longing and a homesickness for the scenes and friends of youth has come upon the lonesome, far-off prairie-isolated pioneer, until the impulse to return has been almost irresistible, but that this was the shadow of a longing and not its substance, was always evidenced by a return trip to the old places. For after submissive years which had ever failed of contentment, after conditions and circumstances were improved, after the family was grown, after the crops of the season were "laid by," it happened a visit might be made to the old home, "back east," and it took only a little while to realize that changes were there also. Faces and ways were changed. Familiar places cherished through the years in memory had not the look the mind had pictured. Disappointment was everywhere. What had been remembered as an immense acreage was shrunk to the size of a Butler county corral. The old "worm" fences, the worn out trees, the dead orchards, the oldness, the smallness, the slowness; measured against the great open fields, the prospects and promises of the plains, the new life and enthusiasm of the West; and the Kansas pioneers said together: "Let us go home." They returned vaccinated against desire and longing for the home back east, and "it took."

The early settlement of Butler county is now pressing back into the dimness of years. The experience of those who stand for the embodiment of this history is represented by the monuments of a generation of the old pioneers—they who exemplified the motto: "Ad astra per aspra." They have lived their lives. They had their enjoyments, such as they were, and their sorrows, and the glory which was theirs and of which they dreamed has departed. We who are left, who are here, are enjoying the results of their labors. We visualize their efforts to materialize the dreams which were theirs, in the days of hardship and privation. While they builded with their hands, they yet erected the castles of their imagination; they looked forward to the time when the things desired by them should become a reality; when their talents and their ability should be recognized, and the esteem to which they are entitled should be given unto them. Respect be to their memory, and the honor of this history be theirs.

## SLEEP, OLD PIONEER.

When the springtime touch is highest,  
 When the summer eyes are brightest,  
 Or the autumsings most drear,  
 When the winter's hair is whitest,  
 Sleep, old Pioneer:  
 Safe beneath the sheltering soil,  
 Late enough you crept.  
 You were weary of the toil  
 Long before you slept.  
 Well you paid for every blessing,  
 Bought with grief each day of cheer,  
 Naure's arms around you pressing,  
 Nature's lips your brows caressing,  
 Sleep, old Pioneer!

Careless crowds go daily past you,  
 Where their future fate has cast you,  
 Leaving not a sigh or tear;  
 And your wonder-works outlast you.  
 Brave old Pioneer!  
 Little care the selfish throng  
 Where your heart is hid,  
 Though they strive upon the story,  
 Resolute work it did.  
 But our memory eyes have found you,  
 And we hold you grandly dear,  
 With no workday woes to wound you.  
 Sleep, old Pioneer!

Afterwards—With grasshopper year, the history of the early settlement of the county properly closes. As the effects of that disaster wore away, population increased and developments came rapidly. Statistics are given below of the population of the county from the year 1860 to the year 1890, that the increases may be noted: 1860, 437; 1865, 294; 1870, 3,072; 1875, 9,840; 1880, 18,591; 1885, 27,018; 1890, 24,155; 1895, 21,126; 1900, 22,800; 1916, 25,000.

The first public enterprise to take hold in the county was the building up of various mills. In 1882 industries of this and kindred sort put Butler county in the first rank in south central Kansas. At that time the following mills, with their given value, were operating in the county: J. W. Smith, Leon, horsepower sorghum mill, \$300; Lytle & Sons, Towanda, water power flowing mill, \$1,300; H. J. & J. W. Ground, Augusta, steam flouring mill, \$19,000; J. C. Haines, Augusta, steam corn mill, \$4,000; A. Palmer, Augusta, steam saw mill, \$1,200; John W. Dunn,

Douglass, water power flouring mill, \$10,000; Wise & Kirk, Douglass, steam flouring mill, \$20,000; Burdett & Weeks, El Dorado, water and steam power flouring mill, \$20,000; also in El Dorado at that time was a brickyard owned by L. Hunting, and a furniture factory, owned by J. T. Oldham, each valued at \$1,000. With but a few exceptions these mills were not successful from a financial standpoint. The products of the grist mill are as a rule now manufactured outside the county. Though a mill at Whitewater and one at Douglass are doing a good business, the greater portion of the old mills have disappeared, a few remaining standing as landmarks.

A general prosperity marked the way through the eighties, rising to high tide with occasional bumper crops. April 6, 1884, Butler county had the pleasure of sending a train consisting of thirty cars of corn, containing 400 bushels each, to the relief of Ohio sufferers. This corn was received in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 11, and was sold April 12 for \$7,000. Many times later has the county had the privilege of dividing its stores with those unfortunate from famine or disaster. The culminating wave of prosperous conditions was reached with the "boom" of the eighties, which engulfed this section of the country. Butler county withstood this period of wild dreams and visionary schemes with less formidable results that were suffered in other places. In fact, some advancement was achieved at that time, as that was the beginning of better homes in the county. Many of the larger and more substantial homes of El Dorado were built in eighty-eight or eighty-nine. The county, too, felt the effects of the depression which swept the country in the early nineties. A time when business was dull, money was scarce and times were hard. And thus have the fortunes of Butler county moved on, upward through the years, its season of mortgages and debt gradually giving way to a general and permanent prosperity. Dry weather still comes, and crops still fail, but a season's loss does not mean to the Butler county farmer what once it meant. His resources are sufficient to meet his needs, and his is a continuous preparation against the day of adversity. The Butler county land owner of today surveys from his modern home, his farm of modern appointments and equipment and his mind takes heed of the beginning.

The era of the pioneer has passed, the time of the primitive has departed. Butler county has taken its place and has become one of the integral parts of a great state whose praises are the pride and joy of its people, and whose fame is circumscribed only by the bounds of civilization. A representative county supplied with all those things that make up the sum total of life, including the hobo and the millionaire, the producer and the consumer. A county where there is enough opposition, climatic and otherwise, to cause a man to put forth his best efforts to overcome and succeed in his endeavors; to compel results in his favor. A county whose people have eliminated the word "fail" from their vocabulary and put the lard in larder. A county whose possibilities have

become certainties, whose faith has given o'er to sight; whose hope has ended in fruition. A county whose people are happy and contented from the appearance of the dandelion in the spring to the disappearance of the golden rod in the fall; and who do each other good from the time the stock is sheltered in the fall until "the green gets back in the trees." A county where the hens cackle a little louder; where the eggs are a little larger, where the cows moo a little more melodiously; where the butter is a little more golden; where the alfalfa and kafir grow a little more luxuriant; where crops yield a little more abundantly; where the farmer markets his grain and stock a little more advantageously; where the oil in the wells is a little nearer the surface, and the gas has a little more pressure; where the children are a little dearer and brighter; the women a little more handsome, learned and lovely; the men a little more noble, courageous and manly; and where home is a little nearer and dearer than any other place in the wide-wide world.

## CHAPTER VII.

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### TRANSPORTATION.

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HIGHWAYS IN EARLY DAYS—FREIGHTING—GOVERNMENT TRAINS—MATH-  
EWSON—STAGE COACHES—EXPERIENCES OF STAGE COACH DAYS—  
STAGE DRIVERS—PASSING OF THE STAGE COACH DAYS—RAILROADS—  
FIRST RAILROAD BONDS VOTED—ANOTHER BOND ELECTION—SANTA FE  
—MISSOURI PACIFIC—FRISCO—COMMUNICATION—PIONEER MAIL  
CARRIER—STAR ROUTE—AUTOMOBILES.

The highways in the early days ran as the crow flew, directly from point to point. Right angles were not a necessity. The pioneer was familiar with the long angling prairie road, stretching out like a great snake as far as the eye could see. There were of course no bridges provided for the traveler. The streams must be "forded" in the most available place. Many of these crossings were more or less dangerous, especially in time of floods. Some hazardous experiences and hair-breadth escapes may be related from encounters with swollen streams.

The roads of that period were not "worked." In the event they became cut up too much, the driver drove out at one side, the great prairie space being so ample. This meant virtually moving the road over, for the new tracks usually became the next road. Thus the road grew indefinitely wider and wider. These prairie roads were said to be the best natural roads ever traveled. It were well this were so, for all goods, wares, or merchandise, including lumber, must be brought over them.

Freighting—Everything and everybody came in wagons. Wagons drawn by cattle, oxer or, later, by horses. The supplies for the stores, the household goods of the settler who came from "back east," such lumber as was necessary outside of the native timber, all must be hauled into the county over the long road, the first distance being as far as Leavenworth away. The distance decreased as the railroad approached, from Leavenworth to Lawrence, from Lawrence to Topeka, from Topeka to Emporia. The hauling of goods of all kinds in the county developed into an industry. This was commonly called freighting. Many men, freighters, were thus employed. Men who spent the long hours on the trail, stopping to cook their meals by the wayside, camping at night in the best shelter afforded, sleeping in the wagon or

under the open sky. A time for telling long tales or for thinking long thoughts, a time of exposure and monotony, occasionally a time of thrills or a time of fear, but withall when scanned from the distance of the years, an interesting time.

Government supplies were taken from Leavenworth to Fort Sill through this county. A government train consisted of from a half dozen to a dozen wagons, drawn either by about three span of mules or six yoke of cattle—mostly the long-horned Texas cattle. By reason of the large spring and attractive location these government trains made a camping place at Towanda. The last of such trains to pass through Butler county was in the spring of 1871. This train was in charge of William Mathewson—the original Buffalo Bill—transporting supplies from Leavenworth, Kan., to Fort Sill, Indian Territory. The train consisted of about fifteen government trail wagons—one wagon hitched to another—they were drawn by six yoke of long-horned Texas cattle. On account of high water they were compelled to go into camp on the hill east of the Whitewater on the present townsite of Towanda, about where the Robison boys now reside. The Whitewater at that time was out of its banks and covered the valley to a depth of almost two feet, from the bluffs to the west side of the river. They were in camp at the time for a week or ten days. After the waters had subsided they doubled teams across the valley—putting twelve yoke to each wagon—and they made some noise as they went across, Buffalo Bill on his cayouse heading the way. The long horns of the cattle kept time to the popping of the whips of the drivers, who on their ponies were using language somewhat more forcible than elegant, but they crossed.

I have always appreciated the fact of their camping where they did at that time, as I thereby met and formed an acquaintance with Mr. Mathewson, and whom I had the pleasure of meeting many times thereafter. A man of splendid physique, with a heart of like proportion, a good comrade; quiet, modest, unobtrusive, but the master of all he undertook; all under him, obeying his nod, wave of the hand or quiet command without murmur; beloved by all with whom he came in contact. A typical man of a typical country, he passed away in the city of Wichita, March, 1916. The world is better for his having lived. Peace to his ashes.

Stage Coaches—The first carriers of passengers for hire were the old Concord coaches, swung on leather springs; passengers inside, baggage strapped on the rear, driver on top, and the mail sack in the boot at his feet. Each coach was drawn by four horses. Two lines of these coaches passed into and through Butler county, commencing in 1870 and continuing in some form or other until 1872, at which time the railroad reached Newton.

One of these lines operated between Emporia and Wichita, making the trip—100 miles—daily. On the route at points about ten miles in distance, were stage stations for the purpose of changing horses. In

this county these stations were located at Sycamore Springs, Chelsea, El Dorado, Towanda and Payne's Ranch on Dry Creek. This latter way station was typical of primitive life and conditions. The establishment consisted of an old plains dugout, which was the house, and another one of similar fashion scooped out of the river bank, which was the barn, but was a hospitable stopping place withal. Hay and corn could be obtained for the horse, while mankind was offered a choice of crackers, cheese, tobacco or "a drop of something-to-take." The owner of this ranch and host of this hospitality was Capt. David L. Payne, the man who was afterward largely responsible for the opening up of Oklahoma, at the time it was first opened to settlement. Though a man much older than myself, he was my friend, and a larger hearted, more liberal companionable man I have not often met.

The second of these stage lines passed between Humboldt and Wichita. This line made trips tri-weekly. In writing of this early manner of travel the writer's mind harks back to the appointed hour when the stage coach was due, it being one of his duties, with his brother, to have ready the fresh relay of horses. The hum of excitement as the old clumsy coach and galloping four appeared on the trail, the noise and confusion as they drew up at the door, five minutes' flurry of bustle and change, a trading of mail sacks, a few passengers to come or go, and the crack of the driver's whip before he had fairly grasped the lines as they were tossed up, a final flourish as he disappeared down the valley and the thrill went out of life.

Many also were the experiences of the old stage trails. On one occasion the outfit pulled up at Towanda, the horses showing evidence of an unusually hard drive, and the passengers trembling with an uncanny excitement. About two miles out from Payne's Ranch, the last station, the dead bodies of two men had been discovered, just outside the line of travel. How they came there or where from was never known. The bodies had the appearance of having been tied to the rear of a wagon and dragged by the neck. Two theories were advanced. One that the men had been in possession of stolen property, and that Judge Lynch had convened court, tried, sentenced and executed them; the other theory was that the two men were traveling through the country with good outfits, which were coveted of someone, and in order to mislead the authorities, an attempt had been made to give the impression that the dead men had been horse thieves caught in the act.

Sometimes a driver of the stage line would attempt to carry a load more than was visible to the eyes. One of these drivers once left Towanda, his horses on the run for Wichita. By the time he reached the Whitewater at the John Heath crossing he was exceeding the speed limit to such an extent that, in making a necessary turn, the coach was turned completely over, or, as the position was described by an old Dutchman, who was inside and who came back to Towanda for assistance, the coach "sot up." No great damage and no serious injury being



found, the coach was righted and the journey continued, one of the passengers taking a seat with the driver for protective purposes.

The Rev. Isaac Mooney, father of the writer, was at that time post-master at Towanda and had delivered the mail to this driver. Arriving at the scene of the accident, Mr. Mooney picked up the mail sack and said: "Young man, when you get sober you may carry mail here, but not until then." He then carried the mail back to the office, where it remained for the next stage. Thus was postal law and order evolved according to the requirements.

But, remembered also, are the good, careful, accommodating drivers. Among these was William Hammond, who afterward homesteaded land in Fairview township. Another one was Nate Roberson, who located in El Dorado, owning and operating the transfer and bus line. An old omnibus, a relic of this service, yet remains with us. After the railroad was continued from Emporia the route of the Emporia-Wichita line was changed, the stage leaving Florence and continuing down the Walnut valley to Winfield. The Humboldt line was discontinued.

The old stage coach days are now gone forever. With the advancement of the railroad came the disappearance of the stage. This happened of necessity; a natural giving away to progression, to speed, to expediency. But one who has lived through the palmy days of the old coach-and-four will long remember the experience, the thrills, the glories, that may not elsewhere be found. Henry Tisdale, long connected with stages and stage lines, and who operated a line in Butler county, in a reminiscent article concerning his early work, writes thus: "There is probably no more pleasing sight than to see, as I have many a time, a fine stage team hitched to a Concord coach, well loaded with passengers, and hear the driver's horn go out, and see the stage swing along like a thing of life. The horses tramp in unison; the axles talk at the wheels work back and forth from nut to shoulder-washer; driver with ferruled whip, and ivory rings on harness, drive up and say 'Whoa!' unhitch the horses and see them take their places in the stable as if they were human; see the next team started from the stable by speaking to them, and take their places at the coach so the breast straps and tugs can be hitched without moving an inch, every horse in his place. It is one of the finest scenes on earth, and the delight of an old stage-man who has staged continuously for forty years."

Railroads—The early railroad history of Butler county is similar to that of other new lands waiting the coming of the iron bands; a record of promise and delay, of attempt and failure, of endeavor and defeat; efforts from the company to secure the co-operation of the settlers; efforts of the settlers to enlist the interest of the company. That hopes and expectations were high and the pleasure in "paper railroads" was great in anticipation, may be gathered from an article taken from the first copy of the Walnut Valley "Times," the date being March 4, 1870: "Our railroad prospects are brightening day by day as we approach the

time of their reality and we can almost hear the puffing of the engine and the shrill tone of the brakeman as he calls out, 'El Dorado! Twenty minutes for dinner! Change cars for Fort Scott and the East! Santa Fe passengers keep your seats.' Yes, the time is near at hand when our people will enjoy the privileges that only railroads bring to a country like ours; rich in resources and only awaiting development.

"The line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway was last summer surveyed and definitely established up the valley of the South



SANTA FE DEPOT, EL DORADO, KANS.

Fork and down the Walnut valley via El Dorado. This road is being built with great rapidity and will doubtless be our first to celebrate, while the Fort Scott, El Dorado & Santa Fe is preparing for an early completion to this place. The P. G. B. & S. F. via El Dorado is an extension of the P. F. and is having a large subscription and liberal land grants. It will afford us direct connection with all eastern roads at Kansas City. The Humboldt, El Dorado & Wichita railroad has been recently organized and articles of incorporation filed. Its officers are men of energy and ability, besides being personally interested along the

line of the road, and with the government aid they are promised, they propose to complete the road the present year. Among the several railroads in contemplation by the citizens of El Dorado and many railroads that are now being discussed by the people of Kansas, there is no other one of more importance than the Preston, Salina & Denver railway. Starting from Salina, its present northern terminus, it will run a short distance up the valley of the Smokey Hill river; thence across and along the Cottonwood valley and thence down the fertile and well-timbered valley of the Walnut to the south line of the State; thence south to the city of Preston, Texas, where it will meet a line from Galveston, the principal city of the gulf coast. Then, to consider the immense riches that will develop in agriculture and mining by its northern course, we will naturally conclude that this is the natural route for the Great French line railway of Kansas and the road of special importance to the citizens of El Dorado, as here it will connect with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and our other roads to the east, and commands our appropriation and aid. We should, therefore, use our best endeavors to advance its interests, as well as the interests of all the roads that are moving in this direction, by voting them bonds and urging our representative in Congress to secure the passage of bills to endow these roads with liberal land grants to the end that they may be speedily constructed, when El Dorado will be amply compensated by being the railroad center of the southwestern Kansas." These roads were none of them built. They were only a part of the old settlers' dreams, the "baseless fabric of a vision." The Santa Fe continued its way westward, but did in time send a branch through the county.

The first railroad bonds were voted in 1871 to the Walnut Valley Railroad Company. In September, 1871, an election was called for October 10, 1871, on the proposition to vote county bonds in the sum of \$200,000 to the Walnut Valley Railroad Company, the bonds to be issued "when that company, or any other railroad company which the Walnut Valley Railroad Company shall legally authorize to do the same, shall have completed the said road in accordance with this proposition." The result of this election was 526 votes in favor of the bonds and 434 against. The bonds were never issued. In 1872 a proposal was made for the Fort Scott, Humboldt & Western railroad, this road to come from the east through Eureka, El Dorado and to the west line of the county. The county was asked to subscribe \$150,000 worth of bonds. On April 23, 1872, an election was called for May 18, 1872. This proposition, submitted to vote, was defeated, the vote resulting 1,037 for the bonds and 1,240 against.

A proposition from this same company was again submitted in July of the same year, in connection with propositions from two other companies. This election, called in June, 1872, was ordered for July 13 and described as for the purpose of voting bonds as follows: To the Fort Scott, Humboldt & Western Railway Company, \$10,000, the road to pass

through the townships of Rosalia, Prospect, El Dorado, Towanda and Benton; to the Kansas & Nebraska Railway Company, \$100,000, the road to come through Plum Grove, Towanda and on to Augusta and Douglass; to the Eureka, Douglass & Santa Fe Railroad Company, \$100,000, this road to be built by way of Rosalia to the juncture of the north and south forks of the Little Walnut, in a southwesterly direction, following the valley of the Little Walnut river to Douglass. These three propositions were submitted as follows: The proposition of the Fort Scott, Humboldt & Western, to be voted on in connection with that of the Kansas & Nebraska; that is, a vote cast for one proposition was a vote cast for the other proposition. Likewise the proposition of the Eureka, Douglass & Santa Fe was to be voted on in connection with that of the Kansas & Nebraska. This maintained a balance of distribution of proposed railway over the county. However, the propositions were defeated, the vote of the first being 366 in favor of the bonds and 1,058 against, and that of the second being 189 for and 1,296 against.

Again, on October 7, 1872, an election was ordered for the purpose of voting bonds to the Kansas & Nebraska Railway Company, the proposed road to be built down the Whitewater, through Towanda, Augusta and Douglass. The company asked the county for a subscription of \$200,000. The proposition was voted on and carried, the voting resulting 1,187 for and 811 against. But the panic of 1873 came on and the building of the road was first postponed and then abandoned. These railroad bonds are all that were voted upon by the county, the voting of other bonds from proposed or builded railroads, having been done by the townships interested.

In April, 1876, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Company proposed building a branch line from Cedar Point down the valley to El Dorado, and ultimately to and beyond the south line of the county. This proposition was for a cash bonus of \$3,000 per mile, to be paid by townships pro ratio, no exchange of bonds and stocks being asked. The question was of much discussion. Evidence grew that a road would be built from some point on the main line under some conditions. During the agitation Florence made successful interference to have that town the initial point of the branch. In February, 1877, bonds aggregating \$99,500 were voted to the new line, which was designated as the El Dorado & Walnut railroad. Work was at once begun. This was the first laying of the iron bands in Butler county. The road was finished as far as El Dorado on July 31, 1877, at 6:27 p. m. The terminus of the road was the old station in north El Dorado. On September 4, 1877, an excursion train was run from Topeka and the citizens of El Dorado were given a free trip to Florence and return. This was the occasion of a great jubilee. A celebration was held in the grove, Governor Anthony being present and making the principal address. This road was built on south through the county in 1885. Several other roads were in turn proposed but not built. The Kansas City, Burlington & Southwestern Railway and Tele-

graph proposed building east and west. This proposition was considered favorably by the townships interested, the vote being 322 to 128. But the matter was dropped and the road not built.

February 21, 1880, the townships of Douglass and Walnut voted aid to the St. Louis, Wichita & Western. This also was dropped and the road never built. In 1879 was the second actual railroad building in Butler. The St. Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita began building a line east and west. Work was begun in 1879, though bonds were not voted by the county in behalf of the prospect until 1880. Bonds voted by the townships interested were as follows: Rosalia, \$10,000; Prospect \$18,500; and Benton, \$11,000, the payment being subject to the actual building of the roads. The railroad for many years called the "Sunflower Road," is now a part of the Missouri Pacific system.

The next railroad to enter the county was the Frisco, built in 1879. Butler county now has four lines and 212.48 miles of railroad to enter and pass through the county. The Florence, El Dorado & Walnut Valley, 73.56 miles, a branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, traverses the county from north to south, passing through Burns, DeGraff, El Dorado, Augusta, Gordon and Douglass. This line branches at Augusta, passing through Rose Hill to Mulvane. The Missouri Pacific, 64.79 miles, crossing the county east to west, passes through Rosalia, Pontiac, El Dorado, Towanda and Benton. A branch from El Dorado passes through Potwin, Brainard and Whitewater. The Frisco railroad, 64.08 miles, also crosses the county east to west, passing through Beaumont, Keighley, Leon, Haverhill, Augusta and Andover. This road, branching at Beaumont, runs through Latham and Atlanta. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, 10.05 miles, crosses the county in the northwest corner, passing through Whitewater and Elbing.

Communication—When the early settlers came into the county, they isolated themselves in deed and in truth from relatives left behind and from news of the outside world. The nearest postoffice was at Lawrence. There a box—"Box 400"—was rented by the residents of Butler. All mail thus addressed was sent down to Emporia by hack. From Emporia the mail was sent down into this county as anyone chanced to be passing this way. Think of it. We, with our free deliveries and parcel post and the five or six daily papers that each needs must have.

In 1858 Chelsea was made a regular distributing station for mail, and in 1860 a postoffice was established at El Dorado. In 1863 a regular mail line was established, running from Cottonwood Falls, through Butler county, to Wichita. These mail lines thus established were called star routes. The places on these routes were commonly designated in the books of the postoffice with an asterisk or "star." Contracts were let by the government for the carrying of the mail in this manner.

A mail carrier remembered is Frank Harrison, who carried all the mail for Butler county in 1866. Mr. Harrison made the trips on horse-

back, taking three days for the round trip from Cottonwood Falls, and delivering the mail once a week. There were three postoffices in the county at that time, Chelsea, El Dorado and Towanda. L. M. Pratt was postmaster at Chelsea, Henry Martin at El Dorado and Sam Fulton at Towanda. Mr. Harrison received \$450 for carrying the mail. Gilbert Green of Towanda had the contract for carrying the mail on the route through the early seventies. This time a spring wagon or buckboard was used. Mr. Green and his sons were all fearless horsemen and hard drivers, and one of the memories of that period is the familiar sight of one of the Green boys flying across the country with a galloping horse and rattling, bounding, bouncing old buckboard.

One star route remains in Butler county today, a line running from El Dorado to Cassoday. The present driver is W. H. McCraner, who uses a Ford car, and makes the trip daily.

Automobiles—The automobile, which came seemingly to play, has remained to work. Such a short season since the first appearance, and how swift the increase. Automobiles have passed from being a curiosity; have gone beyond being a luxury. They are a material feature of the great operating force which turns the great wheel of Butler county life and fortune today. The first automobile was brought into the county about 1903 by Warren E. Brown, of Augusta. The second one was owned by Dr. Richardson, then of Augusta, and the third one by Dr. F. E. Garvin, also of Augusta. Thus, Augusta had three the head start of the county. The first automobile in El Dorado was owned by Dr. J. A. McKinzie. Dr. McKinzie, while trying to ascend a hill in Riverside, lost control of his machine. It turned off the embankment, pinning him underneath, which accident resulted in his death some days later. In the county now, 1916, there are about 1,150 automobiles and eighty-five motorcycles. Also may be found twenty-eight dealers in automobiles and three dealers in motorcycles.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND TOWNS.

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP—BENTON TOWNSHIP—BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP—  
BRUNO TOWNSHIP—CHELSEA TOWNSHIP—CLAY TOWNSHIP—CLIF-  
FORD TOWNSHIP—DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP.

#### AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP.

By N. A. Yeager.

Augusta township was organized April 4, 1870, by the board of county commissioners, on petition of C. N. James and others. It included the present territory of Augusta, Bruno, Spring and the north halves of Pleasant, Walnut and Bloomington townships. The following township officers were appointed until the regular election: Daniel Stine, trustee; A. Palmer, treasurer, and C. N. James, clerk. The first election was held at Augusta, May 14, 1870, which was a special election called to vote on the proposition to move the county seat from El Dorado to Chelsea. The vote was 119 for and 9 against. The next election was a special election on June 27, 1870, to vote \$25,000 bonds for county buildings at El Dorado. The vote was 253 against and none for the proposition.

At the first general election the following officers were elected: Daniel Stine, trustee; E. R. Powell, treasurer; H. M. Winger, clerk; William Treweeke and W. D. Mead, justices of the peace. At this election the county herd law was also voted upon. The present boundaries of Augusta township were established by the county commissioners April 4, 1870. The town of Augusta was incorporated February 8, 1871, upon the petition of C. N. James and eighty other taxpayers of the town. C. N. James, Thomas H. Baker, W. A. Shaamon, G. W. Brown and J. R. Nixon were appointed board of trustees. At the first regular election C. N. James was elected mayor. In 1868, Shamleffer and James opened the first store near the corner of Third and State streets, in a log building, which has since been weather-boarded and is now used as a residence. It is now known as No. 309 State street.

On January 2, 1869, the postoffice was established with Mr. James as postmaster, and the postoffice and the town were given the name of Augusta, in honor of his wife, Augusta James. Immediately across the

street from the postoffice the first hotel was built and operated by Mr. Mitchell, and is now known as No. 308 State street.

Prior to this time the adventurers and explorers of this region recognized the commercial importance of this location for a city, and two town companies were formed and platted this location in 1857 and 1858, and its natural advantages were advertised and exploited by the respective promoters in the east. One of these towns was named Arizona and the other Fontanelle. They were both located on the present



STATE STREET, AUGUSTA, KANS.

townsite. About this time an investigation was had by some of the purchasers of lots, and a survey was made which started from a known boundary line stone on the Neosho river, near Humboldt, and was run due west through this county. It was discovered that the townsites were on the Osage Indian tract and were not subject to sale, and these towns died, as did also the hopes of their founders and the eastern investors to make fortunes. It is said that C. N. James, in 1868, purchased the relinquishment on which the original townsite is located for \$40. Daniel Stine is recognized as being the oldest permanent white settler of this township. He came to Butler county in 1858. A man named Hilderbrand had preceded him to this county and took a claim east of El Dorado on what is now the county farm. A few years afterward it is said that Hilderbrand was suspected of conducting some dealings in horses at night which made him unpopular, and he received an urgent invitation to emigrate. There is no record of how or when he departed.



In 1868, the government concluded a treaty with the Indians whereby they relinquished their claim to a strip twenty miles wide on the north side of their reservation. This is known as the Osage Indian trust land, the northern boundary of which is about six miles north of Augusta. In 1869 A. Palmer brought in a saw mill which was located on the west banks of the Walnut river, immediately north of the present residence of Mrs. M. J. Loy. The first residence of the town was erected in 1869, on the corner of State street and Fourth avenue. This building is now occupied and owned by G. W. Ohmart, and was built almost entirely of native lumber from the Palmer mill. October 1, 1870, the United States land office was located at Augusta. This was largely due to the influence and energy of Thomas H. Baker, who afterward served in the State legislature. Andrew Akin was registrar and W. A. Shannon, receiver. The land office brought with it a large influx of immigration to this county, and Augusta experienced its first boom. The county settled rapidly, and the flood of immigrants pouring down the valley were enraptured by the broad fertile valleys, the beautiful streams and abundance of walnut and other valuable timber fringing them.

Augusta was especially favored by being in the center from which these fertile valleys radiated. The Whitewater river from the north, the Walnut from the northeast, Indianola creek from the northwest, centered at this point; and Four-Mile creek, a few miles to the southwest, and the Little Walnut river and Hickory creek, to the southeast, made an ideal location for the central point of a rich agricultural community. About this time the Santa Fe Railroad Company, recognizing the commercial importance of this point, made a survey from Emporia, with a view to extending its line from that place, but either from lack or grasp of the importance and advantage of this move by the citizens of Augusta, or from some reasons which are not now definitely ascertainable, the railroad company abandoned the project and extended its line west to Newton, and afterward to Wichita, and the land office was moved to the latter place. It is generally conceded by the old-time residents that Augusta failed to avail itself of an opportunity which might have changed the map of this part of the state, and in which they were assisted by some of the old-time residents of El Dorado.

In September, 1870, The Augusta "Crescent," the first newspaper, was established by A. A. Putnam and L. J. Perry. These editors were succeeded by J. B. Davis, who changed its name to The Augusta "Republican." He was succeeded by U. A. Albin, who in 1874 discontinued the publication with this short valedictory: "The patronage we have received will not justify us in risking a continuance. 'Since self-preservation is the first law of nature,' we will endeavor to locate where we can do best." Afterward The Southern Kansas "Gazette" was established by the late Charles H. Kurtz, and in 1880 Mr. Albin repented, returned and established the "Republican."

In 1872 a county seat election was held, in which Augusta received a majority of 206 over El Dorado. The removal of the county seat was contested by El Dorado and the matter was taken into the courts and decided against Augusta on a technicality. This county seat agitation continued for a number of years, to the detriment of both places, and greatly retarded the development of the county. The same year the land office was moved to Wichita. With the loss of the land office and the county seat, the population of Augusta decreased and the speculators, who are the mainsprings in townsite promotion, lost heart and abandoned Augusta for more promising fields. In 1880 the Frisco railroad was completed and Augusta took on new life. In 1881, the Santa Fe extended its line through Augusta to Douglass. Within six months



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, KANS.

the population doubled and continued to increase steadily for several years. Stone quarries were opened up in this vicinity and good building stone was quarried for local use and for shipment. From 1888 to 1898 the financial stringency over the entire country retarded the progress of Augusta, as well as all the towns in the State, but Augusta still maintained its reputation of being one of the best towns of its size in Kansas because of its favored natural resources.

In 1906, the city (largely upon the advice and earnest solicitation of Mr. Yeager, the writer of this article—Editor), took up the development of gas for municipal purposes and commenced to furnish its citizens with gas at a low rate, and now has a gas plant which is estimated to be worth \$100,000, paid for out of the proceeds of the gas. In 1908, the city put in a water system. In 1913, an electric light system was in-

stalled, largely paid for out of the gas receipts. In 1916 the city completed a sanitary sewer system. From the development of the oil field, the growth of Augusta has been very rapid; the census shows for 1915 a population of 1,400, and for 1916, 3,575, and is still increasing in the same ratio. Its future growth and importance will be determined largely by circumstances and the wisdom and energy of its citizens.

To the archaeologist Augusta presents an interesting field. Across the Walnut river from the present city are to be found ruins of an ancient city covering many times the territory now covered by Augusta. Here is to be found the evidences of very ancient races of people, and



WATERWORKS DAM, AUGUSTA, KANS.

fragments of pottery as ancient as the pyramids of Egypt. Fragments of rock used in the manufacture of tools, which are not found this side of Lake Superior or the Rocky Mountains; hand mills for the grinding of grain, manufactured from stone not found in this vicinity; small mounds extending from section 4 in Walnut township to section 26, Augusta township, representing the accumulations, perhaps, of centuries. In these are the fragmentary evidence that delights the antiquarian and appeals to our imagination and fancy. Here is represented an age in which all implements and entlery were manufactured of stone. The process of the manufacture of implements and knives and weapons is unknown today, and must have represented the highest skill, evidencing a civilization far above the American Indian.

This location was selected, doubtless, for its commercial advantages

as well as from strategic reasons. The three sides of this—to the east, north and west, defines a wall almost perpendicular, ranging from twenty-five to fifty feet high, at the foot of which runs the deep channel of the Walnut, making an attack from this direction, with ancient weapons, almost impossible. Here large springs furnish ample water supply of the best character. The Inidan has it that many bloody battles were fought to gain and hold this important point. Doubtless this was the best hunting ground in the mid-continent. Here we find the first timbered protection and the first permanent water for the game and animal life which necessarily must have sought shelter from the blizzards and winter storms which swept the plains, and the drought which parched the great American desert. Here the rich valleys afforded game for the primeval inhabitants.

According to Indian tradition, the last great battle was fought in the low grounds between the present site of Augusta and the White-water and Walnut rivers. If Indian tradition can be relied upon, many thousand braves in hand encounter battled and perished in this last great struggle for this stronghold, and that several thousands of braves perished in this battle. Whatever may have transpired before the present civilization conquered this territory is largely a matter of conjecture. One civilization succeeding another of different type, one race of people succeeding another different in character, has been the history of all time, doubtless true of this locality. And the importance of this location was recognized and built upon in the histories of all these tribes and races.

#### BENTON TOWNSHIP.

By J. C. Henrie and Elmer Dickerson.

Benton township was named after or for the late Thomas Benton Murdock, using his middle name. It was organized in February, 1872, out of the territory comprising Congressional township 26, range 3, and an election ordered held at the general election in April for the election of township officers, at or near the residence of M. T. Wallace. The officers elected at that time were as follows: John Mendenhall, trustee; L. A. Harper, clerk; W. H. Litson, treasurer; W. J. Estes and Charles Hazelhurst, justices of the peace. The assessed valuation of the township for 1872 was \$20,296, and for 1915, \$1,311,059. The township is adapted to agriculture and stock raising. All kinds of cereals and grasses, tame and native, grow and flourish. There are five school districts in the township, and about seven miles of the Missouri Pacific railway.

The town of Benton was platted in 1883 and now contains a high school, two churches, one grain elevator, five general stores, two hardware stores, one drug store, one bank, one hotel, two garages, two physicians, two blacksmith shops, the orders of the K. of P. and I. O. O. F.,

each having their own halls, and are in a flourishing condition; one lumber yard, coal yard and numerous other lines of business are represented. The town is lighted by electricity. Benton has also one newspaper, The Benton "Bulletin," published by John W. Milsap, and enjoys a good circulation and liberal patronage of its advertising columns.

Among the early settlers were J. P. J. Nelson, J. Edmiston, W. H. Litson, E. E. Armstrong, Noah Siders, William Coverdale, R. C. Spaulding, R. F. Moore, W. A. Aikman, John H. Clark, S. H. Dickerson, Robert Dodge, M. T. Wallace, J. C. Henrie, Ed. Harding, M. Gidly, E. H. Stoddard, S. Shafer, I. W. Maple, E. W. Rollings, M. W. Priest, John Im-



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, BENTON, KANS.

man, Andrew Duffey, L. A. Harper, H. W. Beck, E. Durley, Eli Lytle, A. Melrose, D. Barnett, George Medworth, W. M. Mathers, W. M. McCune, J. L. McCune, Charles Hazelhurst and many others. Practically every quarter section was occupied by the claimant or owner at the time the township was organized, a majority of whom have gone from among us never more to return; others moved away and a few still own their original homesteads, while others are occupied by the descendants of the homesteader.

## BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP.

On April 1, 1872, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners asking that a new township, described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of section 4, in township 28, south of range 6, east; thence running west nine miles; thence south six miles; thence east nine miles; thence north six miles to the place of beginning, to be called Bloomington township, and Fields' shop was recommended as the voting place. The petition was granted and an election of township officers ordered held on April 20, 1872. The election resulted as follows: I. N. Crawford, trustee; H. H. Fowler, treasurer; Samuel Major, clerk.

The first settler or squatter in what is now Bloomington township was Samuel Rankin, who attempted to locate on a quarter section of land in 1867. What became of him is among the things that are not known. Among the early settlers of the township as now described are D. S. Yates, Daniel Franklin, Fred and W. A. Ward, W. H. Allen, Alex Covert, Richard Padgham, J. B. Seaman, N. M. A. Whitrow, H. H. Fowler, Chris Wirth, William Schoeb, John Riffe, J. P. Bogle, T. C. Crowley, Sam Major, Gid Stevens and many others. Very few, if any, now own their original claim, and as nearly as can be ascertained, none are now living thereon.

This is a well watered township, and had at one time a good grist mill for grinding wheat, etc., by water power. Much live stock is raised, handled and fed from the products of the farms.

## BRUNO TOWNSHIP.

By A. M. Wolf.

Application for a new township in Congressional township 27, range 3, east of the sixth principal meridian, to be called Highland township, and to include all of township 27 and the north half of township 28, the election to be held at the school house in district 61. The application was presented to the board of county commissioners and granted, and the election was to be held on April 20, 1872. On April 9, 1872, a petition was presented, and granted, for changing the name of Highland township to Bruno township. The election on April 20, 1872, the first officers elected were as follows: N. B. Daniels, trustee; Jacob Brown, treasurer; D. J. Reber, clerk; Isaac Newland and Samuel Reed, justices of the peace; William Riser and Isaac Stroup, constables.

The first settlement of Bruno township was commenced in February, 1869, by Vincent Smith, being the first settler arriving on section 3 on Dry Creek. Upon his arrival, and to his surprise, he found about 500 Indians, and he traveled on horseback up this creek from Augusta to its beginning in Sedgwick county. He then went south across the prairie on to what is called Four-Mile creek. Traveling down this creek he

came to a large spring of water now known as Seltzer Springs, just over the line in Sedgwick county. He continued to follow this creek, and as he came within about three miles of the Walnut River, he saw what looked to him to be a dugout, and upon examining it found it inhabited by a white man, and interrogating the old gentleman, found that he had been a sailor on the high seas and that his name was Franklin. Smith then proceeded down the creek to the Walnut river and on down to where Winfield now stands. His intentions were on starting a town site for a county seat, and upon his arrival the first night, he again found himself among Indians, and they, stealing his horse, told him that "white man was too fresh." Finding that the land had not been surveyed, he then traveled on foot to Cottonwood Falls and then came back in the early spring, about the tenth of May, 1869, and filed on the southwest quarter of section 3, the land office at that time being at Humboldt, Kan.. Nothing much was done during the year 1869 until the early spring of 1870, when the early settlers began to arrive, a man by the name of Champion, a blacksmith; Harry and Frank Kelley, C. A. Glancey and Mr. Graham taking up claims along Dry creek. About October 1, 1870, a few more settlers began to arrive, of whom some are still remembered, being Mr. Wolf, F. A. James and James Collison; and then no further settlement until the spring of 1871, when settlers began to arrive from the East, settling up the township, and, in fact, every quarter section was taken and improvements began at once and have continued to improve until this spring. The citizens of Bruno township can proudly say that we rank among the foremost in Butler county, having a fine high school, elevators, churches and well improved farms; also able business men and an excellent set of farmers. In the early spring of 1870, a few settlers that were here got together and names were suggested for the township, and it was finally agreed to delegate Mr. Graham to name it, and he suggested the name and called it Bruno. The first railroad through Bruno township was built in 1880. Bonds to the amount of \$18,000 for the extension of the Frisco railway were voted and the road was completed through the township in May, 1880.

Andover, the county seat of Bruno township, was platted by Charley A. Glancey in 1880. It is a thriving little village on the Frisco railroad. It has one general store, owned by W. E. Peacock; bank, Earl J. Fanner, cashier; lumber yard, S. B. McClaren; millinery, barber and blacksmith shops, postoffice and other lines represented and all doing a good business.

#### CHELSEA TOWNSHIP.

By Martin Vaught.

In August, 1857, George T. Donaldson, J. C. Lambdin, his son Ralph, and myself, camped at Emporia, at that time a village of less than a dozen houses. We were looking for homes and others joined us, among

whom were William Woodruff and wife, James Leander, Horace Cole, Stephen White, Israel, Tom and Dave Scott and their mother, Mrs. DeRacken and her sons, Bob, John and Ruben; William Rice, and last, but not least, Prince Gorum Davis Morton, who, having a wooden limb, was vulgarly dubbed pegleg. There came to our camp, too, with a long swinging stride, a long rifle on his shoulder, a large pack on his back, carrying his boots, while his feet were unshod, his hat rimless and clothing in tatters, a man who had been on an extended tramp. His hair was light, his eyes blue and bright and contrasted strikingly with his sun-tanned skin. His name was I. N. Barton, college professor and civil engineer from Maine. He had come to Kansas for health and had found it, having explored every stream south of Neosho and as far west as Cow creek, west of Wichita. His description of the Walnut and Whitewater valleys and prediction that in and near them was the garden spot of Kansas won us, and we unanimously decided to go with him and see them. We crossed the Cottonwood where now is Soden's mill and proceeded across the trackless prairie southwest, up the south fork of the Cottonwood, over the divide to Sycamore Springs and down the Walnut to the hill where J. K. Nelson's house stands, northeast of Chelsea. We halted and took in the beautiful expanse, over the valley to the south, to Cole creek on one hand and DeRacken on the other. Surprised and pleased, we went into camp on what is now the Phineas Osborn farm, a half mile east of Chelsea.

We quickly took our claims. We went to building log cabins—homes—with a will. The three Cole brothers settled on the stream—on section 16, now the Shelden farm—that bears their name. The DeRackens took claims on the stream to which they gave their name, now incorrectly spelled Durachen. We found Doctor Lewellyn settled on the land which is his home today, and Charles Jefferson, father of Henry, the first white boy born in Butler county—thirty-six years ago, or 1859—was his neighbor on the north. Henry Martin, afterward so prominent in Butler county affairs, was farther down the stream. All the land about us was unsurveyed and none could tell where to run lines that would encompass all he desired, but it was in October, 1857, when I took my claim (because of the abundant timber on it) at the junction of DeRacken with the main stream, now the C. H. Dawson farm.

"Pegleg" Morton was from Boston, which was to him the hub of the solar and other systems. He was a good singer and enlivened our camp with songs whenever not engaged in relating his adventures, the like of which never were on land or sea. He had sung to the elite of earth, even the crowned heads of Europe as far back as Mary Queen of Scots. We kept tab on him and figured up by his romancing that he was not under 400 years old. He claimed to be only 35. Morton named Chelsea. He wanted to call it Boston or New Boston, because he was from Boston. We compromised on Chelsea, which is a town near Boston, and Chelsea it is even to this day. The first plat was made by a company on what is



now the Buchanan and Nelson farms, in 1858, and another, I believe, in 1867, where the school house now is. The Cole brothers and White were from Wisconsin; Woodruff and Rice, Iowa; Scotts, Illinois; Lambdin, Indiana; Donaldson and myself, last, anyhow, from Jefferson county, Kansas. The Lord only knows where the DeRackens did come from.

In fifty-eight the fifth parallel was the line between Butler and Hunter county on the south. West of range 4 was Otoe; south of Otoe, Irving, while the east line of Butler crossed Fall river near Eureka.

Among the several families that came in the fall of fifty-eight was Daniel Shipley, a burly Missourian, who rarely wore a hat or shoes. His shirt flared open at the bosom and his arms were bare. He was always ready for a fight. Ewing Moxley was another, a thorough frontiersman, born in the wilds, an unerring marksman, fearless, honest and simple and tender as a child. I never read Fenimore Cooper's "Leather Stocking Tales" without thinking of Moxley. He had been a government scout and guide on the plains and while carrying dispatches was drowned in the Kaw river near Lawrence in attempting to swim his horse across it.

Henderson Thomas first settled on what is now the Henry Diller farm in Sycamore. F. B. McAllister started a blacksmith shop on the Cogeshall farm north of Nelson. Settlers came in rapidly and took claims on all the creeks, the more heavily timbered ones first. William Thoroughman was the first settler on Satchell creek. He subsequently sold his land for \$300 to Thomas W. Satchell, who gave his name to the stream. This was afterward the Shaffer brothers' farm and is now owned by Charles L. King. It has on it a magnificent spring which furnished water even in 1860, the year of the terrible drouth.

Our most accessible postoffice was Lawrence. A tri-weekly hack was running from Lawrence to Emporia, and Chelsea and Emporia people rented box 400 at Lawrence, to which their mail was addressed. Whoever went to Emporia brought down the mail for Chelsea, receiving it from Messrs. Fick & Eskride, merchants. Ox teams were used for all purposes, whether freighting or going to church or a dance.

L. M. Pratt, his wife and sons, John and Dick, came in the winter of fifty-seven-fifty-eight; also Matthew Cowley, James Trask and Dr. S. P. Barrett. Settlements were made on West Branch, upper Whitewater, and on Fall river by a Norwegian colony, whose names even to this day prove that they stayed. Such as Ole Ladd and H. G. Branson were leaders. In troublous times we found them loyal and true.

Our amusements were hunting buffalo, deer and turkeys, which abounded. I have seen the prairies between the Whitewater and the Arkansas black with apparently one herd of buffalo. Turkeys came to our corn cribs. Lambdin shot one in his crib one Christmas morning. Dances were frequent. James Gordy and John Pratt, both still living, the one at Oklahoma City, the other at Cottonwood Falls, were the fiddlers—Gordy played half a tune and Pratt the other half, passing the fiddle back and forth. We stayed all night. One time we started to a

dance with an ox team and picked up so many girls that the boys had to walk.

My first acquaintance with Bige Bemis was when I found him roasting chickens in camp. His was probably the first restaurant in the valley; we got all the chicken we wanted and a drink out of his whiskey jug for fifty cents.

In the spring of fifty-nine C. S. Lambdin, cousin of J. C. Lambdin, built a saw and grist mill at Chelsea, the settlers hauling the machinery from Leroy. We now established independent municipal organization and we voted on one of the numerous state constitutions submitted to us. The first election was in a grove near Joseph McDaniel's house, on Buchanan's farm. We used an old coffee mill for a ballot box, furnished by Mrs. Woodruff to help us out of the dilemma. The drawer would be pulled, the ballot deposited, the drawer closed and the will of an American Kansas elector was expressed.

Archibald Ellis came to us this summer, a sterling man in every relation, a true man, excellent citizen, fine neighbor and honest officer. He and his most estimable wife were from Ireland. They were indefatigable workers and generous and kindly beyond expression to their neighbors and friends. They are remembered by hundreds in Butler county for their strength of character, their integrity, thrift and energy. Their children are among the prominent people of the county, and are wealthy, not alone by what they inherited, but by what they themselves have won. George (now deceased) and John have splendid farms which they till with profit. John was county commissioner and served two terms. Mrs. N. B. Cogeshall, who resides near Chelsea, is their only daughter.

Illustrating the light hold the moral code had on some, let me say that many horses had mysteriously disappeared and were traced very close to DeRacken's, and Bob was suspected. A vigilance committee called on him but he was discreetly absent. His younger brother was caught and ordered to tell where Bob was. He refused, a rope was brought and he was hung by the neck repeatedly, but he was steadfast and said they might take his life, but they couldn't make him tell, and they didn't. The DeRackens, however, "made themselves scarce."

J. C. Lambdin was elected to the upper house of the territorial council of fifty-nine, the member of the lower house coming from Chase county. Lambdin was also a member of the constitutional convention in 1860, and under that constitution the State was admitted, January 29, 1861.

The year 1860 surpassed beyond expression any I ever saw in Kansas. It was a year of unprecedented drouth—May, June and July passed without a drop of rain. Every green thing withered; even the leaves on the trees turned yellow and then brown. The streams dried up. Fish innumerable died, and as the deep water holes dried away they were pitched into a wagon and hauled to hogs. Great seams cracked

in the earth. It was really dangerous to ride a pony at speed across the prairie. To add to our woes along in August came myriads of grasshoppers that literally hid the sun. Many settlers, under these distressing circumstances, coupled with the doubt what democracy meant to do regarding their homesteads, left the State never to return. This awful year gave Kansas a name that was a detriment to her for years after.

A settler named Gordon died, and his widow, trying to save the claim and house, went to Lawrence, where she had friends who would furnish her money. Her claim was "jumped" by a man and his two sons, who shall be nameless here. They had taken possession, but George T. Donaldson notified the settlers of the facts and in a short time a hundred men were at the widow's cabin fighting mad. It was dusk and the jumpers were within. Donaldson hailed them. They refused to open the door and Donaldson promptly kicked it into the middle of the cabin. The inmates were ordered to strike a light, which they did. They said they were going to hold the claim. The settlers expressed a different view and directed that they load their "plunder" into their wagon and get off immediately. They pleaded that their horses were on the prairie and could not be found. It was no use, the settlers made them load up, the old man was required to take the end of the tongue and each boy a single tree and the procession moved. When they reached a big drift near Lewellyn's they were halted. The drift was fired and preparations made to hold an impromptu court. The culprits were ready to promise anything and were turned loose. That broke up claim jumping.

The first law suit was before Justice Scott. Rev. Isaac Winberg, of Cole creek, had a yoke of oxen that broke into a neighbor's field. The neighbor brought suit for damages. A. J. Miller was attorney for the plaintiff and "Pegleg" Morton for the defendant. The case was heard and the jury retired to deliberate in the shade of a tree. Dan Shipley was foreman and, when a verdict was quickly reached, marched the jury back, single file. Barefooted, bareheaded, shirt wide open, sleeves rolled up and his stiff hair standing on end, he loomed before the court. "Have you agreed on a verdict?" said Justice Scott. "Yes, by G—d, we have," said Shipley. "Hand it to the court," said Scott. "Well, judge, by G—d, it ain't writ," said the foreman. "We, the jury in the d—d case decide that this here court hain't got no jurisdiction; we'll be d—d if old Pratt shall run this county!" Miller protested and Shipley told him to "shut his d—d mouth or there'd be a — get a — good licking — quick." The case ended.

Rev. J. S. Saxby was a Congregational minister who took to the frontier like a duck to water. He created quite a sensation by his brilliant sermons, until some too critical persons who read the New York "Independent" claimed to have discovered a remarkable similarity between his discourses and those of Henry Ward Beecher. Saxby was a good feeder. Any old settler can tell of his marvelous gastronomic feats. Getting ready for a buffalo hunt, Saxby was preparing to grease his

wagon, having only a small piece of tallow for the purpose. He laid it down for a moment, a dog bolted it, whereupon he calmly shot the dog, removed the lubricant by means of a butcher knife and was soon ready to roll out.

Some buffalo hunters coming in off the plains in 1859 became frightened at what they thought to be hostile Indians. They alarmed the settlers on Whitewater and the lower Walnut. There was a great stampede to Chelsea. One of the hunters, Jerry Woodruff, mounted a pony at Towanda springs and, with a butcher knife for a spur, made the trip to Chelsea in quick time, feeling for his scalp at every jump and warning everybody he saw. The settlers barricaded the C. S. Lamblin (log) house that stood on the then townsite not far from where J. K. Nelson's house now is. Some of the settlers declared that as they came they saw houses burning on the Whitewater. Wagons were formed into corrals with the stock inside. Water was provided in the house and every preparation made to stand off the noble Red Man. Pickets were posted by Capt. George T. Donaldson, who commanded, among them "Pegleg" Morton. Along toward morning, when Indians usually make attacks, he heard the whizz of arrows coming from the river. In a panic he fired his gun and broke for the house yelling "Indians! Indians! The Indians have come!!" Consternation reigned. Children cried; mothers prayed; men swore and prepared to sell their lives dearly. The redskins didn't advance at once and cool men said we'll reconnoiter. They advanced with Morton to his picket post when whizz! whizz! went the arrows. "That's them," said Morton, "they're shooting at us!" But the sounds were nothing more nor less than goshawks gathering their food as they flew. Morton never heard the last of his scare. The Indians didn't come, and those of the settlers who quit running at Chelsea (some didn't, continuing on to "the States") returned to their claims. The alarm was due to the passing of Indians from the southwest to fight with the Kaws near Council Grove. The false character of the scare was not discovered until P. B. Plumb, at the head of a small company from Emporia, came down to help repel the Indians. Emporia was a little selfish perhaps. She wanted the people of the Walnut as a buffer between herself and the Indians. Neither storm nor flood could restrain Plumb and his men in after years from coming to our relief at the least hint of trouble.

George T. Donaldson was Chelsea's first postmaster. Many early pioneers recall him. He was a natural leader, keen, quiet, soft spoken, with a dash and daring when there was a call for action that made him the admiration of the settlers. He had good judgment and was never "rattled" by emergencies. He had accumulated some 800 acres of land, was in the very prime and vigor of manhood, when in hauling logs, on November 4, 1869, one of them rolled off the wagon, crushing him upon a wheel as it went.

The awful drouth of 1860 was most disheartening and hundreds of settlers left their claims. Agents went to the States and solicited aid.

S. C. Pomeroy, afterward United States Senator, was relief agent at Atchison and all supplies were shipped to him. The human hogs came to the front, as usual on such occasions but generally relief was fairly distributed. Grain, flour and beans were shipped in heavy grain bags which were afterward utilized for clothing, on which the lettering would show. Sometimes it would be "S. C. Pomeroy" on one leg, "Kansas Relief" on the other and "Atchison" somewhere else. A pair of pants worn by ——— Bixler took the cake. He was both broad and tall and on the broadest part of his pants in black letters was "Kansas Relief, S. C. Pomeroy, Atchison, Kansas."

I went to my old home in Edgar county, Illinois, in the fall of 1860 and did what I could soliciting aid for "Bleeding Kansas," a name given in derision by proslavery people. When I returned in the spring of sixty-one I did not come alone. I had induced a brave-hearted girl to cast her lot with mine. To my wife is due in great measure the credit of our staying through the dangers and privations which followed. The "Border War" in Kansas and the issues leading thereto had become national and the Civil War came on. The Indians were restless and threatening. Many settlers abandoned their homes. A majority of the able-bodied men enlisted in the Union cause. A more patriotic and heroic people never lived than the Kansans of sixty-one and sixty-five. Enlistments from our section were discouraged. Col P. B. Plumb declared that one of us was worth more to the country here than ten of us in the army because of the rebel and Indian raids which we could repel. We kept up a military organization in readiness most of the time for quick action.

Butler county's first organization was in 1850, when J. R. Lambdin (Joshua?) was chosen county clerk; C. S. Lambdin, county treasurer; J. C. Lambdin, probate judge; Dr. Lewellyn, sheriff, and George T. Donaldson, Dr. P. G. Barrett and Jacob Landis, county commissioners. This organization failed, most of the officers moving away.

In sixty-two more grief came to us. Nevin A. Vaught and Ole Branson gave their young lives to their country and were buried in unknown graves near Springfield, Mo. Soon after followed Moses, Thomas and Burge Atwood. I cannot recall all, but I know that few who enlisted returned.

In those days buffalo and wolf hunting was a source of revenue. Wolf pelts were worth \$1.25 to \$2 each and buffalo skins brought from \$3 to \$6. These furs had to be taken in the winter, and danger from storms and Indians made hunting no pleasant work.

In sixty-three Rev. I. C. Morse, of Emporia, Congregationalist, preached to us occasionally. Elder Rice, who was presiding elder of the Emporia M. E. Church, preached each quarter at Donaldson's (log) house that stood but a short distance south and west of where the stone dwelling is on the Holderman farm. Father Stanbury, an itinerant Methodist and an unique character, also came occasionally.

Society as now defined was unknown yet, and the people were bound by social ties that do not now exist. One neighbor could not do too much for another. None thought of locking doors or granaries. Strangers were welcomed with genuine hospitality and entertainment for man and beast was free.

Miss Sarah C. Satchell taught the first school in Butler county, in the summer of 1860. Miss Maggie Vaught (Mrs. H. O. Chittenden) taught the next two years. Oliver C. Link taught a term. In sixty-two I enlisted in the Union army, expecting to help fight General Price in Missouri, but instead was sent to the plains to watch forts and Indians. I shall never forget one beautiful Sunday morning in April, sixty-five, when I saw a horseman flying down the road toward the present Chelsea, waving a newspaper over his head. It was Henry Donald, and he was shouting, "Richmond is took! Richmond is took!" We could readily forgive his bad grammar for his news was very good, and we rejoiced.

John Houser came in sixty-nine and seventy and set up his blacksmith shop on a lot in front of (west of) the store there now. His shop had neither foundation, sides nor roof—the whole business was out of doors. He had few tools, but he made good use of them. He was successful and now owns a good farm and is one of the esteemed citizens of the community where he has resided for years. (He now lives in El Dorado.) Mr. and Mrs. Joel Benson (both deceased) and their sons, William and Fred (deceased) came in the latter part of seventy and located on what was then known as the McQuarter land. They lived there until 1900, when Joel and William Benson moved to El Dorado, where William was engaged in banking business. Fred Benson left the farm three years later to become register of deeds of this county. In seventy-seven, J. S. McWhorter, Henry Bell and J. K. Skinner put in a saw mill and shingle machine at Chelsea. A Mr. Watson opened a store. Dr. Sparks stuck out his professional shingle. J. B. Shough, now of Prospect, built a hotel, which still stands as the Chelsea store. J. B. Parsons, J. C. Rayburn, J. M. Rayburn, Dr. Zimmerman and some others built dwellings and business houses. The next year, sixty-nine, O. E. Sadler and J. C. Becker built the first good dwelling in Chelsea and put a stock of goods in it.

A big frame school house was erected, the first in the county, and the first bell ever in the county was hung in the belfry and is there yet. Mrs. J. E. Buchanan, Mrs. George Ellis and Miss Alma Henderson (now Mrs. Neil Wilkie, of Douglass) were the teachers in those early days.

In looking back nearly thirty-eight years I recall many sad and sorrowful scenes and many ludicrous events. The remembrance of friends who, like myself, were then young, now old and gray; the recollection of many who have gone to the "undiscovered country" is a solemn retrospect. Among the true-hearted friends of that time who have passed away are Mrs. Garrett, Archibald Ellis and his wife, George T. Donaldson and wife (my sister), J. C. Lambdin and his son Joshua, Henderson

Thomas and wife, P. P. Johnson and wife, drowned on West Branch in the flood of sixty-nine; Mrs. Lizzie Goodall, T. W. Satchell, J. M. Rayburn, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Taylor, and Matthew Cowley and the other boys in blue who gave their lives a sacrifice for the country. Peace be to their ashes.

## CLAY TOWNSHIP.

By, C. M. Price.

On April 7, 1879, a petition signed by Joseph Blancett and fifty-four others, was presented to the board of county commissioners asking that a township be created out of the territory comprising Congressional township 29, range 6, east, to be called Clay. The petition was granted and an election was ordered held at the Morehead school house on the third day of June, 1879. The following township officers were elected: B. M. Winters, trustee; M. O. Dillon, treasurer; Joe Blancett, clerk; S. J. Ensley and John T. Bailey, justices of the peace; John McQuain and J. McGaffey, constables.

Among the earliest settlers in the township were George Messick, S. J. Ensley, John Valkman, M. O. Dillon, W. H. Ellet, John McQuain, K. Bell and Fred Fenkennel, all now deceased. Others have moved away. The only ones now residing in the township on their original claims are N. F. Frakes and the writer, C. M. Price.

All the land in this township is located in what is known as the "twenty-mile strip" and was subject to settlement under the pre-emption laws of the United States, the settlers paying \$1.25 per acre. All kinds of crops, including natural and tame grasses, are grown. The township is well watered and adapted to live stock. Many cattle, horses and mules are handled for the markets.

## CLIFFORD TOWNSHIP.

By Col. Bill Avery.

I first landed in Kansas in March, 1860, and settled in Breckenridge, now Lyon county, where I stayed until December of that year, when I returned to Hillsdale county, Michigan, my place of birth; in August, 1862, I enlisted in Company D, Eighteenth Michigan infantry. I returned from the army in July, 1865, and in October of that year, I returned to Kansas and settled on the old Santa Fe trail twenty miles east of Council Grove at 142 creek. When I lost all I had, with stock dying of Texas fever, in April, 1868, I came to Butler county and settled in what is now Clifford township. It was then Towanda township, from northwest corner of Butler county to four miles south of Towanda, and twelve miles wide.

When I landed in what is now Clifford township, I unloaded my goods in the brush on what was afterward named Avery creek, in company with my wife and one son, U. S. Avery, 3½ years of age. There were in the territory the following settlers: T. L. Ferrier, his father and family; Walter Gilman, H. H. Wilcox and a man by the name of Carns. In June of this year, we had the Indian scare, when everybody left their homes and all returned but Carns. In the fall of 1868, I. V. and William Davis came and located about three miles northwest of our claim. William Davis is still living there. Of all the settlers who were there when I came none are now living.

In the spring election of 1869, I was elected trustee of Towanda township and I assessed the following persons, commencing on the north-west corner of Towanda township: H. H. Wilcox, Walter Gilman, T. L. Ferrier, — Carns, H. Comstock, John Wentworth, Joseph Adams, Jake Green, Amos Adams, John Adams, Anthony Davis, a Mr. Kelly, on west branch of Whitewater; Mr. Green, Dan Cupp and Sam Fulton, and I stayed all night with two Ralston boys and Lew Hart four miles south of Towanda. The Goodales were on their claims, having just arrived, and were not subject to taxation that year. I presume I have forgotten some names. These are all I can remember now.

On November 15, 1868, H. H. Wilcox, his son and Mr. Dean and I went on a buffalo hunt, and on the eighteenth we were caught in a snow storm which lasted forty-eight hours, and covered the ground to a depth of ten inches, and we camped on the Ninachee river with one dead cottonwood tree for fuel. We succeeded in getting a supply of meat, and finally reached home after our friends had about given up hope for our return.

The first school in Clifford township was taught in a log cabin on the claim of Martin Ashenfelter on section 34, in the summer of 1871, and the teacher was Nettie Maynard, the term being three months. Her compensation was \$12 per month and "board around" and, of course, being a sensible girl, she boarded with the best cook most of the time, and all old settlers know who that was. A baby girl was born to us in March, 1871, and died in 1886, aged 16 years.

The first Sunday school was a union school organized at the same place in the same year. Morton Eddy was superintendent and Mrs. Avery was clerk, and she secured the first Sunday school papers through an uncle, Randall Farrote, a Christian minister at Newville, Ind.

There was a rush of new settlers during 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873, and in 1873 we cut loose from Towanda and organized the township of Clifford out of township 23, range 4. W. H. Avery circulated the petition for said organization and selected the name of a friend, John A. Clifford, the father of Sam Clifford, of El Dorado, and presented the petition to the proper authorities.

The first township election was held in the house of John A. Clifford on April 1, 1873. At the election the following were elected: E. Y.



Ketchem, trustee; J. A. Clifford, treasurer; Z. M. Ketchem, clerk; J. J. Long and W. C. Derby, justices of the peace; William Bain and W. G. Hess, constables.

The year 1874 was and will be long known as "grasshopper year." The clouds of hoppers came like a snow storm and the sun was blotted out. Our little garden was north of the house, and we were at the west door of our little cabin watching the hoppers come and wondering what they would do, when my wife said: "They are getting my onions." I wondered how she knew and she said: "One of them hit me on the nose and I smelled his breath." Sure enough, she was right, and we found holes in the ground where the onions had been and that was all. The only thing they left was the prairie grass, and we put up lots of hay and the good people in the East sent us food and clothing.

The first school district was No. 21, organized in 1871, and the first stone school house in Butler county was built by Avery & Jackson in district 21, on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of 14-23-4. This was in 1871 and 1872.

We at that time tried to farm and raise the same things we were used to in the east. Had we known of the merits of alfalfa, kaffir and the sorghums, life would have been much more satisfactory to the homes.

#### CLIFFORD TOWNSHIP (Continued.)

By Elva Commons Nonkin, of Shady Land Farm—It is not my purpose in this short sketch to attempt a chronological history of Clifford and her people, but to try and trace some of the reasons for Clifford and her people appearing so seldom on the criminal docket of Butler county and so rarely on the list of the county commissioners' proceedings which relate to aid given to paupers.

The educational development of the community lay very close to the heart of the early settlers and Blue Mound was early recognized as one of the foremost districts in the county, having the reputation of turning out more teachers than any other district in the county. This was made possible largely by the efforts of the Averys, Ashenfelters, Austins, Lobdells, Hopkins and Harper families. District 47, Brown, was also noted for the length of its terms and the high class of teachers hired. The leading spirits in this were the Baxters, Commons, Smiths, Waggys, Johnsons, Crows, Goddings and Tuttle families, while the Leydigs, Superhaughs, McCroskeys, Jennings, Hulets, Shrivvers and Liggets kept up a high standard in district 71, the third organized in the township.

Among those who developed the live stock industry most extensively during the early days were J. A. Clifford, H. H. Wilcox, Robert Hopkins and C. F. Bruner. Later their places in this industry were taken by H. Lathrop & Sons, the Liggett families, T. A. Enright, J. A. Day, H. S. Lincoln, the Gefeller Bros., V. H. Smith and L. P. Nonkin.

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Perhaps no person has made a more permanent impression on the community than has Mrs. A. M. McCroskey. She lived for many years on the farm now occupied by Mrs. H. G. Liggett, but finally moved to Lawrence, where her son Ward and daughter Orrell graduated from the State university. From there she went to San Francisco, where she makes a home for her son Cyrus and daughter Anna, who are in business there, and although she is now past seventy, she is in the thick of municipal politics, on the side of woman suffrage and prohibition. While here her husband died, and she took charge of the farm, doing nearly all kinds of farm work. She was a member of the school board, a Sunday school superintendent, taught a few terms of school, took active part in organizing many social gatherings, helped young teachers secure schools and was a general neighborhood arbiter, but never during this time neglecting her family or failing to keep up her general reading. Another woman who lived in the township only four years, but made a lasting impression on the lives of the young with whom she came in contact, was Mrs. Maria G. Spear. With her husband, they settled on the farm now the home of L. P. Nonkin. Having no children and being of a social disposition and very fond of the young, she soon became identified with the best things in the community life, having had better opportunity in her early life than most of her neighbors and also of a high moral character, her influence for good cannot be over-estimated. J. M. Linn, who lived in the Blue Mound district about fifteen years, developed the musical talent of his neighborhood. In winter he sometimes had six different singing schools, teaching every night in the week, and on Sunday he led the music at the Sabbath school and church. Although a modest, retiring man, yet he soon became the leader in the church activities, was an excellent public school teacher and a social leader in his community. His death in 1898, at the age of 48, was mourned sincerely by those whose lives he had touched.

Another who was a leading personality in the seventies and eighties was Mrs. S. D. Drake. Of a commanding presence, and with the voice of a prima donna, she always willingly sang and trained others to sing for church and social gatherings, and when she removed to her former home in Boston we felt that we would never have good singing in Clifford again.

Dr. I. V. Davis was an important factor in every enterprise for the upbuilding of the community, and in his capacity as physician he came very close to the hearts of the people. In 1870, John Boersma, a Hollander, with his family, homesteaded the farm now occupied by his son-in-law, Samuel Merwin. Although in the direst poverty for several years, they kept up courage, practiced extreme self-denial and all worked untiringly. They lived in a one-roomed sod house for many years. It was always kept scrupulously clean and orderly and no one entered it but was impressed by the innate worth of its occupants. It was a long time before he could buy a team, but with his spade and hoe he worked

wonders, and in later years, after he had prospered and had built a good house and barn, the farm, with its beautiful well-trimmed hedges and trees and orderly premises was the "show place" of the neighborhood. Of later years, the farm home of Adam Fawley deserves this title. The handsome, commodious, well-painted buildings and the beautiful lawn and well-cared for lots, fields and fences, set an example for the neighborhood. C. C. Page was for many years a potent factor in local politics, church and educational activities. His death occurred in the autumn of 1915, at his home in Peabody, Kan., where he had resided since leaving Clifford township. No history of Clifford township would be complete without the mention of Mrs. Hattie E. Meeks, a scholarly woman of high ideals, who, having no close family ties, gave her whole time and talent to the pupils entrusted to her care. Her work for many years in the Blue Mound and Brown schools could hardly be excelled.

While these to whom I have referred have seemed to be natural leaders, yet there have been many other noble men and women in Clifford township to whom we of a later generation owe a debt of thanks for the examples they have set for us and for the hardships they have endured that we, their children, might have the advantages they had been denied.

#### DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP.

By J. M. Satterthwaite.

Probably the first settlers to claim land in the township were the Dunn brothers, Birney and Samuel, the latter part of the year 1867. (Samuel was killed by Indians May 17, 1869.) Their claims were upon the Walnut river at the south side of the township, and at the southern border of the land the Osage Indians were then ceding to the government for settlement. About the same time, a man named Hugh Williams opened a frontier trading post in a cabin near a ford of the Walnut, a little north of the claims of the Dunn boys. Just what lines he carried is not known at this date, but his stock must have been the frontier staples: Flour, bacon, gun powder, tobacco and whiskey.

In February, 1868, John W. Graves took a claim on "the island," nearly a mile north of the present city of Douglass. He still owns the original claim and long since added to it a hundred or two acres of the best land in the Walnut valley. The same year D. W. Boutwell, John Stanley, John Long and Samuel Shaff took claims along the Walnut river. G. D. Prindle, George Fox, John T. Martin, Neal Wilkie, William Hilton, Ed Wilford, T. I. Kirkpatrick, Capt. Joseph Douglass and others came and made settlement. Captain Douglass took the claim, the north-east quarter of section 20, township 29, range 4, east, upon which he founded the city of Douglass, to which he gave his name, and after which the township was named.

Captain Douglass built the first house upon the townsite. It was

constructed of hewn logs and stood near the present business center of the city.

In very early days, Joshua Olmstead and family located on a claim a mile and a half below the present city and started a saw mill. He then put a dam across the Walnut river and built a grist mill. John W. Dunn, a brother of Birney and Samuel, bought the mill and for many years it was successfully operated, farmers coming many miles with the grain to be ground.

In the earlier organization of the county the territory now comprising the township of Douglass was a part of Walnut township, which then comprised the south sixteen miles, clear across the county from east to west.

January 6, 1873, the county commissioners organized a municipal township, six miles by twelve miles in extent, comprising township 29,



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, DOUGLASS, KANS.

range 3, and township 29, range 4. The first officers elected were: J. R. Gardner, trustee; John T. Martin, treasurer; C. B. Scott, clerk; S. A. Goodspeed and J. W. Alger, justices of the peace; F. S. Fleck and Thomas Long, constables. Not long afterward township 29, range 4 was taken from Douglass and Richland township organized.

The town of Douglass was organized as a city of the third class in 1879. The first mayor was C. B. Lowe; F. D. Stratford, city clerk, and F. W. Rash, city attorney.

In the years 1868, 1869 and early 1870 mail was brought from El Dorado by private subscription, John Long making weekly trips to that point, bringing to the settlers such mail as might come to them. In

1870 a regular stage line from Emporia was instituted and a postoffice established. C. H. Lamb was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by C. Calhoun, he by his partner, Dave Young, and he by Rev. J. B. Ives.

The first paper published at Douglass was The Douglass "Enterprise," founded by D. O. McCray in 1879. After a year he moved the paper to Burden. Then The Douglass "Index" was started in 1880 by J. B. Ives, with his nephew, a Mr. Cole, as editor.

Mr. Ives, with the help of several editors, continued the publication until the winter of 1883, when he sold it to J. M. Satterthwaite, who founded The Douglass "Tribune" in its stead and continues its publication until this date.

The first school taught in the township was a subscription school taught by Miss Agnes Stine, who soon became Mrs. George Fox, and still lives upon the Fox homestead two and a half miles north of the city. Mr. Fox died several years ago. Her early successors in educational work were S. L. Shotwell, afterward county superintendent and the organizer of much of the educational work in the county, and Mrs. Alma Wilkie, then Miss Henderson. Then Prof. J. W. Shively took up the work. For years he was the leading educator of the county.

In the year 1881 a branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad was extended from El Dorado to Douglass, which was the terminus of the road for about six years before the line was extended to Winfield.

Up to the year 1870 the Texas cattle trail crossed the Walnut river a mile north of the present city of Douglass. This Texas cattle trail was a great thoroughfare, over which vast herds were driven from the ranges in Texas, through the Indian Territory, to shipping points in Kansas. With the herds and along this trail reckless, venturesome men traveled, many of them too dishonest and reckless for the regions of settled society. Their doings in those wild days, just after the close of the Civil war and border troubles, in which men were educated to reckless deeds of violence, have furnished instances for many a true, tragic and thrilling story of frontier life. This trail, passing through the Indian reservations, first touched the country open to white settlement, and presumably under civil law, at the point where it struck the territory now in Douglass township. Naturally Douglass was the rendezvous of many wild and reckless characters. Horse thieves and cattle rustlers came and went, and some took claims and made their stations near here.

On the afternoon of May 17, 1869, Samuel Dunn and a boy companion named Henderson were slain by a band of Osage Indians. The killing occurred on the prairie near the timber that skirted the Walnut river. Dunn and Henderson had been hunting and looking over the land. Henderson's folks were looking for a desirable claim on which to settle. Returning from their wandering, they stopped to rest upon a log that had been washed up on the prairie bottom on the west side

of the Walnut and east side of Eight-Mile creek. As they were seated upon the log a band of Osages came riding up from the southwest, dashing down upon them. Dunn and Henderson ran for the timber, but were overtaken by the Indians and both killed and scalped. The savages not only scalped Dunn, but they cut off his head and three of his fingers. It is said that some of the Osages had a grudge against Birney Dunn, Samuel's brother, and when they made the attack supposed they were killing Birney.

The government called the Osages to account for the murder and two members of the tribe were turned over to the civil authorities for trial. The sheriff of Butler county, James Thomas, of El Dorado, had the Indians in charge and was bringing them to El Dorado from some point at the northeast. Coming up the south fork of the Cottonwood river, the two prisoners disappeared. Some assert that they made their escape. Others claim they were shot and buried. At any rate they never appeared for trial.

The horse thieves that infested the Texas cattle trail were a source of greatest annoyance and loss to the early settlers in the region around Douglass. Settlers among strangers, a long way from old home and former friends, driving teams to wagons in which were loaded their scant household effects and earthly belongings, would suddenly find themselves without horses, the animals having been ridden or driven off in the night, and in some instances boldly taken in the day time. Afoot and amid strangers, in a vast, unfamiliar region, was a woeful condition to be in. Few of the settlers had the cash wherewith to replace the teams so lost. The settlers became enraged and determined upon drastic measures to rid the country of suspected characters. A vigilance committee was organized. On the night following election day, in November, 1870, a force went to the cabin of George and Lewis Booth up the Walnut river, a little more than a mile north of the north line of the township. (The land is now owned by Lonnie Morrison.) George and Lewis Booth were shot and a man named Corbin hanged. The party, returning to Douglass, met a desperate character from Texas, named Jim Smith, at the crossing of Little Walnut on the old stage trail. He was an associate and companion of the Booths and Corbin, and was headed for the Booth cabin. He gave battle and his mount was shot from under him. He got behind a stump and stood off the vigilantes for a time. It is said he hit one or more of them, but it was never generally known who, for the vigilantes protected their doings with pledged secrecy. But Smith was soon surrounded and shot. When the Emporia-Arkansas City stage crossed the creek some little time afterward the driver found Jim Smith's dead body on the trail.

But the end was not yet. These four men who had been executed as horse thieves had friends. Whether these friends were associated with them in horse stealing and dividing the funds received for stolen horses is disputed. But these friends started criminal proceedings against

men charged with having taken part in the killing and some were arrested. Feeling ran high and revenge was threatened. For the purpose of intimidating their opposers, the vigilance committee took action again, and on the night of December 1 four citizens of Douglass, William Quimby, a merchant; Dr. Morris, his son, and Mike Dray, a clerk in Morris' drug store, were taken to the timber a mile and a half below Douglass and hanged. At this act a number of suspicious characters left the neighborhood and horse stealing abated. It was a desperate remedy for a bad state of affairs and left a bad effect upon the community. Some of the men executed may not have deserved their fate. They may have been only warm friends of the men who did.

Joseph W. Douglass, the founder of the city, and after whom the city and township were named, was shot and mortally wounded on the townsite in 1873. He had taken a lively interest in the suppressing of thieving in the community, and on the night of his murder had arrested, without a warrant, a camper he suspected of stealing chickens. The man had chickens in his possession and did not give a plausible account of where or how he obtained them. Douglass marched his prisoner to several places where he had said he purchased the fowls, but the parties denied having sold them to him. The prisoner, evidently fearing the fate of others, shot his captor with a small pistol he had in his possession. Douglass was armed with a larger revolver, but had failed to disarm his prisoner. The man ran and Douglass fired at him several times, but failed to hit him. Douglass lived a day or two after being wounded and requested that no injury be inflicted upon the murderer. He was captured, tried and sent to the penitentiary for ten years.

One event that had great effect upon Douglass and community was the building of a great sugar mill for the manufacture of sugar from sorghum, in the year 1888. Investigators had set up the claim that sugar could be made at much profit from sorghum, and so heartily did the people of Douglass take up with the idea that they promoted a company, built a great mill, and induced the farmers to plant a large acreage of sorghum. When the mill was put in operation at great expense it was found to be unprofitable. Those who had put their money into the scheme lost it all. The city had voted bonds for water works and turned the bonds over to the sugar mill company, under contract of building the water works. The failure of this enterprise carried down with it the Wilkie bank. Mr. Wilkie had been a pioneer banker in both El Dorado and Douglass, having considerable wealth for those times. He had ventured it all to build up the city of Douglass and lost.

## CHAPTER IX.

### TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND TOWNS.

(Continued.)

EL DORADO TOWNSHIP—CITY OF EL DORADO—LOCATION—EARLY INDUSTRIES—NAME—FIRST POSTOFFICE—FIRST HOTEL—RAILROADS—WALNUT VALLEY TIMES—EL DORADO IN 1870—FROM THE WALNUT VALLEY TIMES OF MARCH, 1881—EL DORADO IN 1916.



CITY BUILDING, EL DORADO, KANS.

The history of El Dorado township insofar as early settlements are concerned, is so nearly identical with the city of El Dorado that the two will be considered under one heading. May 30, 1870, a petition signed by D. M. Bronson and fifty others asking that the town of El Dorado, as described in said petition, be incorporated under the name of El Dorado, was presented to the probate court of Butler county. The petition was granted, and J. C. Lambdin, A. D. Knowlton, T. B. Murdock, T. G. Boswell and C. M. Foulks were appointed trustees. The 140-acre tract which comprised the original townsite was entered on March 23, 1868, by B. Frank Gordy, and a plat of the townsite filed for record in the succeeding month. Shortly after entering his claim, Gordy sold a fifth interest each to Henry Martin, Samuel Langdon and Byron O. Carr, and with them formed the El Dorado Town Company. Town lots were laid out and sold to all who would improve them, at the rate of \$10 per lot.

The location of the town near the crossing of the old California trail, on the Walnut, and its other natural advantages of position, did much to aid the new venture at this critical time, when it needed but a trifle to kill the embryo city. Houses of a very modest description sprang up rapidly, and the town began soon to present a semblance



of substantiality. There had been some houses on the townsite prior to the entrance of the Gordy claim. As early as 1867 a log house was built in the east part of the town, and the same summer E. L. Lower put up a cabin where Mrs. White's residence stood. The latter of these buildings had passed away, but the former stood until 1885, just west of the present city building, on East Central avenue. It was burned in a fire which destroyed Skinner & Stinson's livery stable, July 1, 1885. The third building on the townsite was a frame store, erected by Henry Martin, on the corner now occupied by the Haberlein clothing store. Just prior to the erection of this store, Elias Main put up a saw mill on the Walnut near the present lower bridge.

The year 1868 brought many new industries to the town. In the spring D. M. Bronson opened a land office. Dr. Kellogg divided his time between this office and the practice of his profession. A wagon shop was put up by a Mr. Handley, a blacksmith shop by Mat. Strickland, and a harness shop by Mr. Gearhart. Mrs. M. J. Long (Mrs. E. H. Clark) opened a millinery store, and some minor branches of business were carried on. This year was also signalized by the opening of the first regular saloon. The institution, after being for some time a sore spot in the community, was closed by the suit of Mrs. Thomas Tool, for damages to her husband and the ensuing litigation. To counteract the influence of the saloon element thus early arrayed against the prohibition forces, the temperance people organized a lodge of the "Sons and Daughters of Temperance." This order flourished for some time, but finally died out, and its records have been lost. The year closed upon the town in a flattering state of growth and bidding fair to become a large central trading point.

Thus far the reputation of El Dorado had spread little beyond its immediately associated towns in the northeast—the places where it touched the line of the older settlement, and felt, though distantly, the pulsations of the world's great heart. With 1869 came the publication of a paper of its own, the "Emigrant's Guide," gotten up by Bronson and Sallee, who had entered extensively into real estate dealings, and printed by Jacob Stotler, of the Emporia "News." The "Guide" was what would be called a "rustler," and crowded for Butler county and El Dorado after a very lively fashion. This year saw the first social gathering of the people in the new settlement, and also the first disaster, the drowning of the Johnson family, during the June flood, in the West Branch, a short distance above town. With 1870 came a rush of settlers and a flood of events, which deserve more specific description. With the rush of 1870 came the demand for more room within the town limits, and the special suave and ready response to the demand by real estate men. Lower's addition of eighty acres, north of Central avenue, was laid out this year, as were the blocks of land belonging to Finley and Gordon on Main street, and that of Wilson on the west. These, together, made a little less than 320 acres. The following letter from Capt. J. Cracklin,

of Lawrence, one of the party who started the town, gives an account of the naming of El Dorado: Lawrence, Kan., December 11, 1882: Dear Sir—In reply to yours of the seventh instant, I would say the name El Dorado is two Spanish words and signifies "The Golden Land." The beautiful appearance of the country upon our arrival at the Walnut suggested the name, and I exclaimed, "El Dorado!" and when the townsite was selected the name was unanimously adopted. I proposed the name and Thomas Cordis seconded it. Yours truly, J. Cracklin.

William Hilderbrand is supposed to have been the first settler near El Dorado, probably in 1854, having taken a claim near where the J. D. Connor farm now lies. In 1859 his place, which had become a sort of headquarters for horse thieves, was raided, and Hilderbrand, after joining the order of the flagellants or anglice, and getting a sound thrashing at the hands of the vigilantes, was given twenty-four hours to effect his escape from the county, and disappeared forever from El Dorado's horizon. In 1859 occurred the first wedding in El Dorado, as well as in the county, the parties united being Miss Augusta Stewart and a Mr. Graham. Shortly after the wedding the groom received serious injuries from the discharge of an overloaded gun and died. The first child born in El Dorado was Mattie, daughter of P. R. Wilson. The first death was that of Mrs. H. D. Kellogg.

El Dorado postoffice, as originally located, stood a mile and a half south of the present town. The mails were, however, handled at the residence of Henry Martin, on the present townsite, and the postmaster, Daniel Stine, lived at Augusta. There was a little frame building at the site of El Dorado proper, but in 1867, when the county lines had been moved to their present southern limits, the building had been stripped and stood alone and untenanted. At this juncture, D. M. Bronson, who had been appointed county attorney, proposed to Connor, representative from the district, to refit the building and employ it as a county seat headquarters. After various conferences, in which Connor refused to do anything, Bronson left this part of the country and went to a point below Augusta. On his return the present El Dorado had been located and made the county seat. A postoffice had been opened across the Walnut, opposite the present city, for four or five years before old El Dorado was surveyed, and D. L. McCabe had been postmaster. Daniel Stine, of Augusta, was, as has already been stated, postmaster in the old town, though never performing the duties of that office. The postoffice officials in the present city have been Henry Martin, H. D. Kellogg, Mrs. M. J. Long, Frank Frazier, Alvah Shelden, T. P. Fulton, J. C. Rodgers, B. F. Meeks, A. J. Palmer, W. H. Ellet, Mary Alice Murdock, and the present one is T. P. Mannion. The office has been, since 1879, a Presidential one.

The first hotel opened in the new town was a rough frame erected in 1869, and occupied by Thomas Brothers. This very modest hostelry was later made the rear portion of the El Dorado House, of Samuel Langdon.

El Dorado has been fortunate in its exemption from disastrous fires, the only one of any great importance occurring in December, 1880, and destroying the Walnut Valley elevator. This structure was built in 1878, at a cost of \$10,000, and had a capacity of 40,000 bushels. It was not only an elevator, but also a flouring mill. And the fire in 1900, which destroyed the Central school building.

El Dorado had the usual uneventful and uncertain future of frontier towns. Its geographical location, and being the county seat, were its only boast. A \$10,000 stone school house was erected in 1875, which was destroyed by fire in February, 1900. While it grew steadily in population and number of buildings, it had not an air of permanency. Enterprising citizens, among the leading ones being T. B. Murdock, then editor of The Walnut Valley "Times," after much labor and



MAIN STREET, EL DORADO, KANS.

persuasion, secured the building of the Florence, El Dorado & Walnut Valley railroad from Florence to El Dorado. This was the potent factor, the first railway in the county. It reached El Dorado in July, 1877, and the town turned out en masse to welcome it. Immediately after its completion an excursion train was run to the town, a grand ball and banquet were participated in, and a new era of prosperity welcomed with every evidence of joy. The future of the town seemed then assured. Real estate advanced rapidly. New roofs sprang up in all directions. The old and small business houses began to give way to larger and handsome brick and stone structures. A brick building 104 feet long and two stories high was built by N. F. Frazier in 1878. But the town's tribulations were not over. In 1879 overtures were made to the citizens to aid a line of railway to be known as the St. Louis, Wichita & Western railroad. It was to be a branch from the Atlantic

& Pacific at Pierce City, Mo. For years the citizens, strangers crossing them, and surveyors and engineers declared that the flint hills—a range of semi-mountains bounding the county's eastern line, presented an impassable barrier to railways in that direction, save at one particular "pass" in what is now Glencoe township. The railway officials professed to be anxious to come through this "pass" to El Dorado, although the line running in a northwest direction from Pierce City would have to trend southward to reach Wichita. Our people rejected the demands of this company, and shortly after propositions were submitted to townships, and carried, voting aid to this line, running nine miles south of El Dorado, through the rival town of Augusta and cutting off at least 60 per cent of the trade which had previously come to the town to reach rail communication with the outer world. This was a depressing period. Many, believing that Augusta, by reason of the heavier population around her, and her "boom," inaugurated by the building of the new road, would be the county seat, moved away from El Dorado, building slackened and the town was at a standstill. Again our business men took hold, and in 1880 forced the F. E. & W. V. (the "Bobtail," as it was called) from El Dorado, through Augusta to Douglass; which became the terminus, thirteen miles south of Augusta. Again the county seat was saved by cutting off the trade of Augusta from the region of Douglass and stopping her growth. But El Dorado languished. Being in the geographical center of the county, the county seat and having a railroad was not enough. Her growth became slow and unsubstantial through 1880, 1881 and 1882. During these three years an effort was being made by a local company at Fort Scott to build a road westward along the fifth parallel—an old dream of the first settlers in El Dorado, thought to be impossible of realization on account of the flint hills previously spoken of—but the company was poor and weak, and the work languished. It kept building and bonding, building and bonding, however, until in 1882 preliminary surveys were run through the hills by General Gleason, of St. Louis, an experienced engineer, who found a route of easy grade, but expensive to construct through the hills. Propositions were submitted and aid voted the road, under the belief, afterward verified, that the road would belong to the Missouri-Pacific system, and on January 1, 1883, our second railway, known as the St. Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita, was completed to the borders of the town, amid the same scenes of rejoicing which had characterized the coming of the first one. From the date of the completion of this (competing) line the permanent growth and prosperity of El Dorado were assured. The town outstripped the most sanguine guessers of its progress. The building and putting in operation, on July 1, 1885, of the Ellsworth, McPherson, Newton & Southeastern railway, largely secured through the activity and influence of Gen. A. W. Ellet, of El Dorado, gave the city its third railway, and accelerated and amplified the "boom" which characterized building operations after the coming of the "Sunflower"

railroad, as the St. Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita was called. This line passes through a very fine agricultural country, and is a very important feeder to the main line of the St. Louis, Fort Scott & Wichita railroad.

El Dorado was made a city of the second class in July 1885. It is noted for the numerous shade trees along its broad streets and about its houses. Everybody plants and cares for trees. Its houses are generally neat and substantial structures. It is remarked that an unusual and very large amount of paint is used in painting and decorating dwellings, outhouses, fences, etc. El Dorado is one of the neatest towns in the State.

El Dorado has a beautiful, well-drained and healthful site. Its business buildings are substantial. It has many handsome residences and beautiful grounds. The streets are board and shaded. Its schools are such that any intelligent community would be proud of them. Its churches have large memberships, and their ministers are generously



CENTRAL AVENUE, EL DORADO, KANS.

supported. The secret orders are in a flourishing condition. The Masons and Odd Fellows have large and handsome halls. The city has a square (but the town is not built about it), deeded to the public, artistically set out with trees, which are flourishing and yield much pleasure from its shady foliage.

Finally, El Dorado's people are a social, intelligent, reading, church and school-loving and saloon-hating people, with whom all order-loving folk will find the warmest and most generous friendship and ample and inviting accommodations and facilities for educating and rearing their sons and daughters and launching them into business.

The first issue of The Walnut Valley "Times" was on March 4, 1870. It was a seven-column folio, exactly the size of the present Daily Times. T. B. Murdock, afterward editor of The El Dorado "Republican,"

and J. S. Danford were "editors and proprietors," to quote from the editorial subhead. The paper was started by contributions of cash and El Dorado town lots. In a few weeks Danford retired from the paper and began a remarkable career as a banker—rather as a bank wrecker. The Bank of El Dorado, the Bank of Caldwell, Sumner county, and the Bank of Osage City, Osage county, all went under; all were simply robbed by Danford. How he escaped hanging at Caldwell at the hands of a mob was one of the remarkable episodes of early days. Murdock sold the Times to Alvah Sheldon in 1881.

The "head" of The Walnut Valley "Times" has never been changed since the first issue, save that some ten or fifteen years ago instead of small capitals the initial letters of the three words of the title were changed to capitals and small capitals for the remainder of the words.

What would now be called an advertising rate card was in 1870 designated in the Times as a "price list," and the rates then were approximately what they are yet in the weekly. The subscription price was \$2 per year, subsequently reduced to \$1.50 and in 1889 to \$1, if paid in advance or during the year. Newspaper paper in 1870 was about seven cents a pound. The paper boasted in its first issue that it had a "circulation of 800 copies," by which the editors meant to say that they printed that many. They did not refer to the number of subscribers.

Under the head of physicians and surgeons were H. D. Kellogg, J. C. McGowan and Dr. Edwin Cowles. Attorneys-at-law were D. M. Bronson, Ruggles, Plumb & Campbell, E. B. Peyton & J. V. Saunders, H. C. Cross & W. T. McCarty and Almerin Gillett. How familiar are these names to the old pioneers. And Bronson and his wife were kindly, generous and helpful. They slept on the floor of their small home one night that two orphan girls who had ridden in the four-horse stage from Topeka might enjoy a night's rest before continuing their journey on to Douglass. They were Lida and May Lamb, the one buried in Belle Vista, the other Mrs. Alvah Sheldon. Bronson died many years ago; Mrs. Bronson remarried and lives in Wisconsin. They reared a fine family. Mrs. E. C. Thompson is their daughter. R. M. Ruggles was an able lawyer. He died years ago. P. B. Plumb later served twelve years in the United States Senate and died in 1892. He was one of Kansas' distinguished patriots, soldiers and statesmen. Plumb and Ruggles were from Emporia. W. P. Campbell in after years served with honor as district judge.

In 1870, El Dorado, having about 400 inhabitants, advertised one hotel, the El Dorado House, corner of Main street and Central avenue. The public is assured in the first "Times" that it "is receiving large additions and is being refitted and refurnished throughout." J. B. Shough, deceased, advertised the Chelsea House as having "ample accommodations for the traveling public," and many of its guests rolled up in blankets and slept on the floor, anywhere they could find room. Meals were usually fifty cents. Mrs. Eliza White told the public she had a

boarding house "on Main street," in El Dorado. Eli Corliss was a stone mason and plasterer; Crimble & DeLong were carpenters and builders; so were D. A. Rice & Company and Ward & Potts—W. G. Ward and Thomas M. Potts. Henry Martin (settled on the old Teter farm, north-east of El Dorado, at an early day), was a "licensed conveyancer and notary public;" S. P. Barnes—peace to his ashes—was the town's lumber dealer; Henry Rohr shod the town and roundabout, making many pairs of boots at \$8, \$10 and \$12 per pair; in millinery and dressmaking, Mrs. M. J. Long (Mrs. E. H. Clark) and Miss M. E. Close "respectfully announce to the ladies of El Dorado and vicinity that we expect to, within a few weeks, open a new and complete stock of millinery, consisting in part of ribbons, laces, flowers, feathers, silks, satins, velvets, etc. Bonnets and hats made to order. Dressmaking a specialty." Thomas R. Pittock was heralded as proprietor of a saw and grist mill "adjoining town on the southeast;" and "H. Martin & Company have permanently located their saw mill on the Walnut adjoining town on the east, sawing over 6,000 feet of lumber per day." Sleeth Brothers announced their saw and grist mill running "on West Branch, at the north end of Main street;" and Burdett & Wheeler advertised their new saw mill "in operation on the L. B. Snow farm on the Walnut, south of town." "We publish herewith the first number of The Walnut Valley "Times." We have no apologies to make. Our paper speaks for itself. We make no promises, as we might not be able to fulfill them. To those who have aided us in establishing our paper here, we wish to return thanks. If you, after carefully examining the 'Times,' conclude that it is worthy of your support, make it known to us by sending us 'two dollars in advance.' 'Our political faith' is described—It is scarcely worth while for us to state that we are Republican in political faith, as politics is so little thought of or talked about in this country. We will not, however, support Republican nominees when they are known to be dishonest or corrupt. We will not under any circumstances support men for office who have a reputation for dishonesty. We are in favor of the fifteenth amendment, the present administration and the payment of the government debt according to contract."

A writer, under a nom de plume, under date of February 14, 1870, says: "On Monday three of us started for the lower country. We stopped at Augusta to take on a better supply of rations. Augusta is a lively little town, having two stores, a blacksmith shop, saw mill and hotel. Messrs. Baker & Manning have a good stock of goods and appear to be doing a good business. Our old friend, Dr. Thomas Stewart, is also selling goods there. The saw mill is doing a good business, but cannot supply the demand. Another mill is expected soon. We passed the new townsite of Walnut City, on a gradual slope of the upland, sloping toward the junction of the Little and the main Walnut. One or two buildings have been constructed and we noticed about 100 logs piled up waiting for the mill from the Neosho. We came to the flourish-

ing town of Douglass, near the southern line of Butler county. There are three good stores, good hotel, etc. Chester Lamb is proprietor of the hotel. Douglass has one of the finest locations of any town in the State. Douglass and Walnut City will, in all probability, be rival towns, as they are only two or three miles apart. Below Douglass the valleys grow in breadth and beauty and numerous squatter cabins are visible along the valley from Douglass to the mouth of the Walnut. About eighteen miles below Douglass we came to Winfield, at the mouth of Lagonda creek, formerly called Dutch creek. We counted several new houses. Just below the town we crossed to the west side of the Walnut at what is known as Kickapoo corral. We ascended to the divide through a defile with large rocks on either side, and from there south ten miles to Delphi (later Arkansas City). This is the most beautiful stretch of land I have seen in Kansas. The Arkansas river, about six miles west of the road, is visible all the way down to the mouth of the Walnut. About the middle of the afternoon of the second day we reached Delphi, which is a new site laid out for a future town. It is a smooth, swelling ridge, sloping off toward the Walnut on the east and toward the Arkansas on the south and west. The Arkansas is about the size of the Kaw at Lawrence. Fish are very abundant. We formed a fishing excursion on the evening of the first day after our arrival. The evening was delightful, warm and clear. The moon being full made it as light as day. During the short time we were fishing we secured some nice ones, upon which we feasted. Prior to our arrival Captain Norton caught a catfish weighing seventy pounds, and a short time before one that weighed sixty. The second day, while surveying claims, getting dry, we stopped to take a drink—not of the oh-be-joyful—but out of the pure and sparkling waters of the Walnut, and while so doing our horses ran off, leaving the wagon a wreck and scattered through the woods. After running a couple of miles the horses were caught by a friend, and returning to camp we went to work and before night we had everything mended up and ready to start home the next day. On returning to El Dorado, absent only four days, we noticed three new buildings that have sprung up during our short absence, which shows that the people of El Dorado mean business.”

Someone, writing from the Little Walnut river country, near where Leon was started in 1879, says that every claim (homestead) is taken from the stream's head in the Flint Hills to its junction with the main Walnut, near Douglass. Taking a claim meant settlement upon it, and at times four poles laid in a square testified to someone's settlement until he (or she) could erect a cabin. The writer praises this section and declares that “stock can be grown to the age of four years at an average price of \$2; thus giving the owner a clear profit of at least \$25 per head. Companies from Michigan have already been formed and have taken claims on the head of the North Branch of Little Walnut for the purpose of entering extensively into the dairy business.” This was only a



dream—there were so many dreams, visions, illusions in those days. Nearly all the settlers were poor. They did not understand the country, the soil and climate. Many had never owned land before and the prospect was so flattering that air castles were readily constructed. W. R. Lambdin—he died in Denver several years ago—“has a claim at the junction of the north and south branches of the stream. He has been here about two and a half years. He has eighty-six domestic cattle, nine horses, four hogs, a mowing machine, sulky rake, plows, etc., etc. He raised in 1869 300 bushels of potatoes and an abundance of other vegetables. His 160-acre claim has seventy acres of timber. He has refused \$3,500 for his claim and stock. The next claim, on the north branch, is J. T. Lambdin's, seventy-five acres of timber, balance mostly good valley land. He has a log house of one room, which serves as parlor, bedroom, dining room, kitchen and nursery. He ‘batches’ and is making rails and will improve his claim as rapidly as possible. He values his claim at \$900.” This was J. T. or Josh Lambdin, who died here many years ago. It will be seen that the Lambdin brothers were considered quite wealthy. Think of 160 acres of the best bottom land and eighty-six head of cattle worth only \$3,500 “Amos Richardson,” the writer continues, “has a claim, a family, a frame house and three acres broke; made several hundred rails this winter and smokes his pipe in leisure hours. He is a number one man and ought to be a J. P. He would be insulted if one should offer him less than \$1,200 for his claim. His brother occupies the next ranch, has a frame house, three acres broke (this means the sod turned over with a ‘breaking’ plow) and that he is a son of a thief if he can be euchred out of his claim for less than \$600. He is recommended for P. M. at Quito and will soon open an extensive stock of dry goods and groceries in that city. By the way, fearing people may not find the city, it is located on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 11-27-6. The next claim belongs to a Mr. Hart, formerly of Ohio, and was settled upon in August, 1869. He has built a one-an-one-half-story house, hewed logs and made no other improvements. Mr. Hart has a No. 1 claim with forty acres of timber and 100 acres of the best bottom land. He offers his claim now for \$500, and it is the cheapest on the Little Walnut.” It will be noted how frequently timber is referred as a valuable feature of land. The marvelous building of railways and distribution of lumber could not then be foreseen and timber was considered to be precious. With the coming of railways twelve years after this time, timber land lost much of its value, save for fuel and cattle shelter. “George Miller,” says the chronicler, “owns a claim with a log house, stables, etc. His claim cost him a horse, and he would be badly scared if offered \$600 for it. Mr. Miller's daughter has taken an adjoining claim, 160—no improvements. This is an example for other young ladies, and darn the man who dares to jump that claim. B. R. Boarce has a claim with hewed log house; he can take \$400 for it any time.” His record goes to show the small and humble beginnings

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of the pioneers, many of whom became homesick, were disheartened by drouth that would now be unnoticed because of better farming and better understanding of the time of planting, of crops to plant and their cultivation."

The editors of the "Times" left a record of incipient El Dorado, not full and complete, but giving a fair idea of its small beginnings: "Our town is beautifully located on a rolling prairie in the Walnut valley, and about the center of Butler county. Main, the principal business street, runs parallel with the Walnut river and is level enough to be called a table land, yet with sufficient slope to drain the surface water. By the original survey, the townsite contained but 140 acres, lacking twenty acres in the southeast corner to make it a square quarter section. But the enterprise of our citizens, encouraged and stimulated by an unprecedented flow of immigration developing the resources of our county, soon demanded an enlargement of our borders. E. L. Lower, one of our first settlers, and Judge J. C. Lambdin, who are ever exercising a disposition to advance the interests of the town and community, concluded to make a personal sacrifice for the public good and prepared for the market Lower's addition, comprising eighty acres lying adjacent to the original townsite, which being rapidly covered with all kinds of business and dwelling houses. Twenty-two business lots on Main street and a large number of residence lots have been duly surveyed, the plot recorded as Finley's addition, and lots are now on the market at reasonable prices. While these lots are recorded as an addition, they properly belonged to and should have been surveyed as part of the original townsite; they are a portion of the twenty acres required to make the site square. All owners of property in El Dorado will be pleased to learn that Main street has been continued southward parallel with the streets on the west, not only bettering so essentially the shape of the town, but bringing into market some of the most choice business locations on Main street. Much gratitude is due Mr. Finley's liberality in removing the blockade to allow a large share of our improvement and business to take its natural course southward and we hope our citizens will not hesitate in using the means to the end intended. We are just informed that our fellow townsman, Dr. J. P. Gordon, has laid out a row of lots south of Finley's addition, continuing Main street the full extent of those on the west, thus perfecting the shape of that corner of the townsite. Let us all appreciate the doctor's public spiritedness. Comes last in order, but greatest in point of importance, Wilson's addition. It is eminently more essential to have a location of health and beauty, with salubrious air and water and fertile soil on which to build your residence, grow your orchard and make your home, than to own a whole bulk of business lots on Main street. Wilson's addition offers all these attractions and inducements. It joins the old townsite on the west and contains eighty-six acres of good undulating prairie, affording natural building sites and is especially adapted to parks, gardens and vineyards. Prof. T. R.

Wilson has for this purpose very generously disposed of this land to the following company: Drs. H. D. Kellogg, A. White, J. S. Danford, J. K. Finley and Mr. (A. D?) Knowlton, who have had it surveyed into blocks of two acres each, sub-divided into lots of one-fourth acre, and now offer it in lots of any size to suit customers, and at prices so reasonable that the poorest man may buy a home, while the rich and noble will have all the aid of nature to enrich, magnify and display their improvements. Were they to traverse famous Italy they could not find a building site more surpassing in beauty, loveliness and healthfulness than now offered in Wilson's addition. With all this array of additions the townsite of El Dorado contains less than 320 acres—not quite one-half section of



CARNEGIE LIBRARY, EL DORADO, KANS.

land, not yet half as large as the original townsite of Emporia, and needs forty acres to make a square corner on the northwest; there is room for another addition, and we will look to our chief clerk in the State senate for a slice off his homestead when he returns."

Under the head of business men of El Dorado, the first "Times" says: "Henry Martin came to the Walnut valley in 1857, before there was a house in Butler county. His means of transportation was a yoke of oxen to a wagon, his entire stock in trade, his home being wherever he said so. Mr. Martin could then see in the resources of this country its immense riches, and, being a plucky Englishman of 28 years, began work for his share. He built the first store in El Dorado, which he now occupies, with everything in the line of general merchandise. It is

22x46 feet, two stories, with a good cellar; three rooms on the second floor and well finished throughout." (This building stood on what is now the site of A. G. Haberlein's clothing house—known as the Sunderland block, and built by N. F. Frazier in 1878. Mr. Martin lost his life by having his limbs severely frozen while on a buffalo hunt in 1870 near Medicine Lodge). "Mr. Martin," says the "Times," "has, of course, seen some hard times, and while he has paid strict attention to business and accumulated his own fortune he has never forgotten or neglected the interests of the citizens of Butler county; has served one year as probate judge, as justice of the peace five years, and county treasurer four years, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He now owns within two miles of town 200 acres of all first-class bottom land in a high state of cultivation; a good saw mill in town, and one-fifth of the original townsite of El Dorado. We mention these things to show what the Walnut valley can do for a poor man in a short time if he is possessed of the energy, endurance and integrity that has made Henry Martin the man he really is.

"Judge J. C. Lambdin also came to Butler county in 1857, and in the fall of 1859 was elected to the Territorial council, where he served with much honor for two years. The judge and his two sons entered the war in 1862 and valiantly served in the cause of the Union to its close, when they located in Emporia, Lyon county. Knowing by experience the advantages of the Walnut over the Neosho valley and by the earnest request of their old neighbors they all returned to El Dorado and in April, 1869, they built the large two-story frame house on the northwest corner of Main street and Central avenue (the site of the old Boston store—later Haines Brothers' store, now Hough's cash store) where they are extensively engaged in general merchandising in the firm name of J. C. Lambdin & Sons. Their store is 22x40 feet with four rooms upstairs and contains a stock of about \$6,000. Their goods are purchased at the fountain of eastern markets and in quantities so large that they can not be undersold. Since the judge's return he has done much for the interests of El Dorado; his influence being always extended in the cause of churches, schools and the cause of temperance, and should ever be remembered by the good people of Butler county.

"Next came Messrs. Betts and Frazier from the city of Leavenworth and opened a first-class grocery, provision store in their (frame) building 26x38 feet on Central avenue. Their business has increased so rapidly that they are preparing to build a large store building on Main street. These gentlemen have a full stock of goods and are quite gentlemanly and accommodating in their dealings.

"On lot one, block one, on Central avenue (the house now owned by Mrs. Vincent Brown), is located the only drug store in the Walnut valley. It is 40x40 feet, with a proprietor about five feet by 240 pounds, which is to say, Doc White. When gathering the notes from which to prepare this article the doctor said: 'I make no pretensions financially

but physically I am as big as any of 'em.' The doctor has been a long time in Southwestern Kansas, having successfully practiced medicine in Lyon county nine years before coming to Butler. He commenced business here in the fall of 1868 by opening as fine a stock of dry goods and groceries as has ever been offered in this market, which, together with the doctor's plain, honest and outspoken manner of dealing, soon won a full share of the people's patronage, and his trade went on swimmingly until last July, when, actuated by the want of the people, he concluded to sacrifice his flourishing trade in dry goods and groceries and put in his extensive stock of drugs. This is the first drug store in El Dorado, and to judge from the amount of its trade, we conclude our citizens fully appreciate it is for the public good and will not allow its generous proprietor to be sacrificed. His trade is increasing rapidly and the doctor is compelled to enlarge or rather build a new store room, which he proposes to do at an early date. He is also dealing in real estate considerably. Besides his Emporia property he owns 150 acres of Wilson's addition and quite a number of lots in the old town site. Our citizens are all pleased at the doctor's success in business, for to "do unto others as he would have others do unto him," has ever been the motto of Dr. Allen White.

"Mr. (Thomas G.) Boswell, who owns the beautiful farm connected with the original townsite on the northeast, has laid out an addition of ten acres making fifty lots adjoining Lower's addition on the east. The grocery store of J. B. King, 16x36 feet is situated on the west side of Main street. Mr. King came here in '63 and except the time he served in the Union army has been engaged in general merchandise. J. C. Fraker & Company began business here about the first of last December. Their store is built of first class pine with latest style of glass front, is located on the northeast corner of Main street and Central avenue. April 1, they will increase their stock to \$10,000 which will necessitate the enlarging of their store house to the size of 23x50 feet. Chas. M. Foulks (Mr. Fraker's partner) has charge of the store. Mr. Foulks has had a great deal of experience in this line of business, having clerked for Governor (C. V.) Eskridge of Emporia for a number of years. Messrs. A. D. Knowlton and Ed C. Ellet, formerly of Bunker Hill, Illinois, located here in the hardware business in the latter part of December. They built one of the best buildings in town on lot one in block two. It is 16x44 feet with glass front. They have everything from a needle to an anchor.

Messrs. H. H. Gardner and John Gilmore, late of Chicago, have located in El Dorado and are preparing to wholesale and retail dry goods, groceries and hardware on a larger scale than any house in southern Kansas. These gentlemen bring with them Chicago ideas of improvement and are building their store house accordingly. It will cost about \$3200, is two stories, made of good pine timber, with latest style glass front, heavily corniced windows, etc. For beauty and durability they

can safely challenge comparison with any building in the southwest. Our citizens can justly feel proud of this grand structure and we hope they will reciprocate by giving a liberal patronage to the new firm. Mrs. M. J. Long (Mrs. E. H. Clark) and Miss Close are preparing to open a complete stock of millinery in their new building in Lower's addition.

Jacob Gerhart, Esq., who has been here about a year, is doing a successful business. He keeps on hand a large stock of saddlers' hardware and is an energetic and industrious worker. . . . Here too, we find the shoe shop of Henry Rohrs. He is a good mechanic and is always busily engaged at his bench. Messrs. Holt and Wagner (butchers) buy nothing but fat stock and keep the market constantly supplied with the best fresh meats. Messrs. Strickand & Son are doing an extensive business ironing wagons, shoeing horses, etc. R. Hallett is just completing large livery stable which he will soon have open for business.

Messrs. Bronson & Kellogg are doing a thriving real estate business. They are among the first settlers and are of course thoroughly acquainted with the real estate of the Walnut valley. Dr. H. D. Kellogg came here when an isolated log cabin marked (if he could have seen it through the sunflowers) the present site of our more than flourishing town. She was young and feeble and of course needed a physician.

. . . . D. M. Bronson has served the citizens of Butler county as register of deeds, which has given him a thorough knowledge of all the titles in the county. He is now county attorney, besides serving the State of Kansas as journal clerk of the senate. Our citizens all agree that whatever greatness in point of progress and improvements El Dorado may claim today is in a large degree owing to the energetic efforts of Dr. H. D. Kellogg and D. M. Bronson. Salee, Gordon & Company are also doing a lively real estate business. W. A. Salee is the present register of deeds. The law firm of (William) Galligher & Moulton have connected with their practice a real estate agency. W. P. Campbell, attorney-at-law, came here from Kentucky last fall and is gaining a large share in the practice of his profession. Mr. Campbell has taken a homestead, 160 acres, two miles west of town. Dr. J. C. McGowan came here a short time since and could get a good practice if this climate was not so unfavorable for his profession. Dr. E. Cowles, homeopathic physician, has a fair practice. He is principal of our high school. Messrs. Sleeth Bros. have located their saw mill on West Branch at the north end of Main street. Their machinery is all new. Burdett & Sheeler are putting in a saw mill five miles south of town. John Wayne & Company, who are doing such an extensive lumber business all over southern Kansas, have established a branch yard at El Dorado under the supervision of their accommodating agent, M. B. Raymond. S. P. Barnes is building a neat little office at his lumber yard on lot No. 1, on North Main street. The following are architects and builders: McFeely & Gordon, Ward & Potts; and Crimble & DeLong. Each of these firms is prepared to take contracts. D. A. Rice & Company and Eli Corliss carry on masonry

and plastering. John Cook, Esq., is an old settler in Butler county. He opened the first hotel in El Dorado, has handled considerable real estate property and made lots of money. Mr. S. Langdon (Sam) came here in an early day and has devoted his exclusive energy to the interest of El Dorado, having among other things built the El Dorado House, the largest stone structure in Butler county. . . . He is a sharp and shrewd trader and while keeping an eye to his own business is ever seeking to benefit the community.

T. R. Pittock is truly one of the leading spirits of El Dorado. He is making money rapidly but is keeping it invested in such a manner as to benefit the public as well as himself. His new mill compares favorably with any in the state. He has recently purchased the El Dorado



McKINLEY SCHOOL BUILDING.

EL DORADO, KANS.

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

House and proposes to enlarge it by an east and west ell 24x30 feet, two stories, with twelve rooms, which together with the large stone building and the old house repaired will make a first class hotel. William Jewell, who owns so much land in Butler county, located here in about a year ago. He purchased one-fifth of the original townsite of El Dorado. Many of the lots he has disposed of at a sacrifice to induce immigrants to locate and build our town. He very generously donated one of the best lots on the west side of Main street to the newspaper enterprise, for which he will accept our thanks." And these were the business men of little El Dorado. The population in 1870 could not have exceeded 400 people. There were about fifty business and professional men.

The county officers at this time were: W. R. Brown of Cottonwood, district judge; H. D. Kellogg, county clerk; Henry Martin, county treas-

urer; W. A. Salee, register of deeds; W. E. Harrison, probate judge; James Thomas, sheriff; J. W. Strickland, coroner; Daniel M. Bronson, county attorney; T. R. Wilson, county surveyor; S. C. Fulton, M. A. Palmer and Martin Vaught, county commissioners. A. G. Bailey notified that his wife had left his bed and board and he disclaimed all responsibility for her; and L. A. Phillips gave notice that he had sued Mrs. Phillips for divorce.

The lumber price list was: First and second clear, one to two-inch, \$65 per 1,000 feet; select, \$55; common, \$45; flooring, \$72; common, \$40; ceiling, \$55; siding, \$27.50 to \$32.50; fencing, \$40; dimension lumber, 2x4, 2x6, 2x8 and 2x10, \$40 to \$42.50; "A" sawed shingles, -6.25; No. 1 warranted, \$5 to \$5.50, mouldings, battens, etc., manufacturers' prices—freight added. Kellogg & Bronson and other agents advertised land and lots thus: Dwelling, on lot 2, block 15, North Main street; one story, four rooms, \$700. One hundred sixty acres adjoining El Dorado on the north, all bottom or second bottom timber and water, \$3,000; eighty acres, a mile northeast of town, half bottom, on Emporia State road, \$10 per acre; eighty acres on Whitewater, adjoining town of Towanda, fine bottom, \$8 per acre; the southwest of 21-24-6, all choice bottom near Chelsea, price \$1,200; 240 acres, thirty-five cultivated, forty-seven fenced, hewed log house, No. 1 spring, good timber and water, in section 3-25-5, \$3,150; 1,440 acres, part of section 7-8 and 9-25-6, forty acres broken and hedged, thirty acres of timber, \$6 an acre; eighty acres in 2-25-5 on West Branch, forty acres broken and under fence, \$1,600; 320 acres, the north half of 22-25-5, \$5 per acre; southwest of 3-23-7, \$3 an acre; west half of 10-23-7, \$3 an acre.

"Stock in Butler county is doing exceedingly well, has required a little feed this winter. There are about sixty boarders at the El Dorado House. The building is crowded to its utmost capacity all the time. A. M. Burdett is putting up a beauty of a residence at 39 Central avenue. It is 16x28 feet with an addition on the north—cost \$3,000. School district No. 2 built the first stone school house in Butler county. It has a sightly location, six miles north of town, is 20x30 feet and ten feet between floor and ceiling. E. L. Lower has just moved into his new residence in block three, Settler street. Mr. Lower has surely grown up with the town, at least he vacates the oldest house in El Dorado. Having built it before the town was surveyed, it happened to be located in the middle of Main street and last week he moved the relic to his new home for a stable. (This cabin stood in front of and a little north of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.)

"Our office is located in the second story of Martin's building (southwest), corner of Main street and Central avenue. We issue 2,000 of the "Times," dating the paper for several days in advance of our issue to give us time to get out our next issue. Our paper is printed in brevier and nonpareil. We have about forty fonts of display and job type. Our double medium Washington hand press is entirely new and of the



most approved pattern. We will have a new job press soon. Are prepared to do all kinds of job work cheaply and expeditiously. Our entire office cost \$2,000.

"Persons have asked us how far we were from Indians and buffalo. We will state that we are on the verge of civilization. About three hours ago the last Indian might have been gathering his blanket around him and silently departing for more genial climes. He was closely followed by his squaw and faithful dog. The last buffalo, of the male persuasion, after gazing for a few moments at The Walnut Valley "Times" office, silently dropped a chip or two, or perhaps three, and departed thence, not, however, until we had securely fastened 100 copies of the "Times" to his tail. We will say to Eastern readers that the civilizing and enlightening influences of the papers thus scattered will prevent any more shedding of blood on the border.

"Chelsea, a beautiful town on the Walnut, about nine miles north of El Dorado, was laid out a year ago. There are eleven houses on the townsite. A new school house, 26x38 feet, one story high, of pine lumber, has been put up this winter and will be ready for occupancy in a short time. Saddler & Becker (O. E. Saddler and John C. Becker) are engaged in the merchandizing business. J. B. Shough owns and runs the hotel. The building is a two story frame of sufficient dimensions to accommodate the traveling public. We understand Mr. Shough is making arrangements to start a county seat here soon.

"Knowlton and Ellet in connection with their hardware have a tinshop . . . and have secured the service of Wm. M. Rinehart, with an experience of thirty-five years and cannot be excelled by any tinner in the West. J. B. Parsons, painter, glazier and paper hanger, has permanently located in El Dorado. Presbyterian Church: Rev. J. Gordon, pastor; M. E. Church, Rev. Garrison (S. F. C. Garrison?) pastor. Services alternate twice every Sabbath at the new stone school house." This school house was about 22x30 feet—one story, and stood on the southwest corner of the block corner First avenue and Washington street.

Murdock & Danford, the editors, advertised themselves as also in the real estate business.

"The first settlement in Butler county," says a description that was run for months and months in the paper, "appears to have been made in 1857 and '58 on Walnut river, but owing to the drouth of 1860 and the unsettled and exposed condition during the four years of war succeeding there was no substantial growth until about 1864, when Butler county was organized. The county as at present constituted is forty-two miles long and thirty-four and one-half east and west. Since 1864 the country has been filling up rapidly, by hardy, industrious people, representing almost every state and nationality. Butler is the last organized county in southeastern Kansas, is about 100 miles south of Topeka and 125 west of Fort Scott. There is very little waste. The county lies entirely west

of a chain of semi-mountains known as the Flint Hills. There are no swamps or other accumulation or stagnant water in the county, hence no malaria. Coal has been found in various places, but is yet undeveloped. The county seat is permanently established at El Dorado, a young but flourishing town, located very near the geographical centre of the county and scarcely two years elapsed since the organization of El Dorado and she now numbers about forty-five houses with as many more contracted for building this spring; but a number are now in process of erection. Several business houses are going up. We now have three stores of dry goods and general assortment, one drug store, a hardware store, two grocery stores, a large stone hotel, a fine stone school house just completed, livery stable, harness shop, meat shop, four saw and grist mills, two lumber yards, two real estate offices, three law offices, two practicing physicians, a blacksmith shop, etc. It is possible to become quite excited over the marvelous rapidity with which our young town is growing into a city; but you need not deem us extravagant when we predict that at least 125 good buildings will go up here within the present year."

#### EL DORADO IN 1870.

By the Late H. H. Gardner, in 1895.

H. H. Gardner, (deceased), an early day merchant and later a banker writing for the Pioneer Edition of the "Times" in 1895, had this to say of the men most prominent in the city's affairs in those trying days.

"You have requested me, Mr. Sheldon, to give my recollections of some of the people who lived in El Dorado during the early days. The year 1870 was the important year of pioneer life for this city. I say important because the foundation of its future was then prepared by those who cast their lot and fate with the fortunes of the place and the hoped-for city in future.

"I arrived here on the 7th day of January, 1870, coming by private conveyance from Eureka, which had a hack line from Emporia; a tri-weekly line started at the beginning of the year, and this route was recommended to me by old man Robinson, who kept the Robinson House in Emporia. It was by his advice I sought the Walnut valley as a promising place for a young man wherein to choose a home and grow up with the country. It was five o'clock in the evening when I crossed the ford south of where R. O. James' mill stands (long removed), and drove up through the main street of the village to the corner where the State bank of El Dorado now does business (now the Citizens State bank). A stone hotel with a frame addition then occupied that corner. The stone part was new and the carpenter's bench was still in the office part of the building. The landlord was Sam Langdon, who met me at the door and to my request for a room for myself and companion John Gilmor, replied we could have a bed but no room to ourselves, for the

house was not partitioned off yet nor the upstairs even plastered. We secured our bed in the southwest corner upstairs and deposited our luggage underneath it and were then ready to pay off our driver and begin sizing up the town. We were somewhat chilled from the long drive and the coldness of the day and needed—at least we thought we did—a nip of ginger essence or something of that nature to start our circulation and warm the cockles of the heart. We were referred to a building at the end of the block east of the hotel, which was pointed out as Dr. Allen White's 'foundry' with a drug store in front, whither we repaired and were greeted by Dr. Kellogg, who was the clerk of the store. The doctor could not be prevailed upon to give us anything straight, claiming the law would not permit, so we left him grumbling and feeling down on the town. The axiom of try, try again was then put thoroughly in force and brought its promised reward when we struck Henry Martin's store, then a square front, wooden, two-story building, standing on the corner where George Tolle now obligingly deals in his choice selection of hand-me-downs. (Haberlein's clothing store now.) The bluff English Henry took in my Dundreary side whiskers, spotted me at once for a Brittisher, and listened to my tale of woe. Joe Potter—all old timers will remember Joe—took us into the back room, disappeared down cellar and brought up a tin pint measure of Pike's Old Magnolia, then quoted at \$1.75 per gallon, with gold at \$1.20. The chill was averted, the malaria killed and we thought better of the town and the people.

"Returning to the hotel we found the room full of people preparing for supper. There were so many, we remarked, that the whole population must eat with Sam, and that was about right, for I had to wait for the third filling of the dining room. When all seats were taken, if one opened the door and looked in to see what his chance was, he was laughed at by those eating and the cry of 'Scooped, Scooped!' was fired at him with a malignant festivity that made him get out and close the door in a hurry. I caught on next day to the *la mode* of the burg. I braced myself against the dining room door about a quarter of an hour before it opened; I was shot in quickly like a package from a pneumatic tube.

"During the next day we made the acquaintance of the reading and representative citizens of El Dorado and were introduced to C. M. Foulks, John H. Betts, N. F. Frazier, Judge J. C. Lambdin, Dr. J. P. Gordon, Capt. A. D. Knowlton, Ben King, Doc. White and Judge Sallee. Doctor Gordon had a twenty-five foot stick in his hand that he used to measure off town lots with, and he immediately tackled us on the question of town lot buying, assuring us that the Chicago we had left would be a 'one horse town' when compared with the great metropolis that was to be built upon this site.

We did not decide to permanently locate, when we tossed up a Canadian penny with the Queen's head on one side to decide our fate. If it came head up we were to remain and if tail, to return to Emporia.

It came down head side up. Thus how and when we became citizens of El Dorado, and now that a quarter of a century has passed away I draw upon my memory for its recollections of those early days. I find faded negatives stored away in the cells of the brain. They flash to the front with vivid and distinctive outlines that prove what a wonderful store house it is, a photographic depository bringing back the scenes and faces viewed in the long ago.

"That I have only pleasant memories of the good pioneer friends I made in 1870 and who are not here today, I can truthfully say. There was then no caste, no clique, no sect or church separation. We were as one common community dependent on each other for social intercourse, company and human sympathy, a commune, a socialism or interdependence which growth and development spoiled, then crushed and its recollection to all who participated therein can, I am sure, be only a most pleasing reminiscence.

"I think Dr. Allen White was the strong central figure in El Dorado in the days of '70. He was enthusiastically interested in the growth and progress of the town and hardly a night passed that he did not have some private or public meeting of the people to discuss something of importance. He would go his rounds and notify us all to come out. He was a Democrat, but local issues then were paramount and 'Doc' would remark that he had 'to plow with the Republican heifer for the common good.' He was the author of the remark that there was 'no general or state statute against damned fools.' In fact, his quaint and terse sayings were the bonmots of the time and today constitute the special provincialisms of old El Doradoites. When he traveled he always carried a bottle of water in his pocket so when he discarded his chew of fine cut he could rinse out his mouth without leaving his seat. Five feet one way and 220 pounds all over, he hated to get up and sit down often; but when on his feet and in motion he moved briskly for one of his size. He had enterprise and built a showy drug store where Hitchcock's store now stands, the large fine house on Central avenue and laid out the handsomest block and planted trees upon it where Judge Leland's and Ed C. Ellet's (H. Hitchcock's) houses are built.

"Henry Martin was county treasurer in 1870 and had the county safe in his store. There was not much money on hand and the script passed current in trade among the merchants, but as Henry was the treasurer he had a monopoly and what we now call a cinch on his kind of traffic. He lived on his farm where the John Teter farm is now, and owned much good town property. The era of '70 brought business competition to El Dorado and Martin could not stand the new and less profits in selling, so in time his substance melted away and he lost most of his possessions. He was an honest, kind hearted man. He would now and then hit a little too heartily the 'flowing bowl' and when so fixed his favorite remark was 'my name is Haitch, Haitch Martin, and I'm hon it!' the English massacre of the letter H being at that time most pro-

nounced. Martin lost his life while out on the plains on a buffalo hunt with John L. Cupples and others. He came home badly frozen and died from the effects of the exposure.

"T. B. Murdock and J. S. Danford were the first proprietors of the Walnut Valley Times. The office of the paper was in the second story of Martin's store. Danford attended to the outside business and sold and traded the town property that was given the firm as a donation to induce the establishment of the paper in El Dorado. Murdock was the editor and worked at the case. Both being strong men mentally, they exercised great influence in the community and were at the head of about all matters of general interest. Danford sold his interest in the paper and was appointed clerk of the district court, justice of the peace and I think probate judge. I know he held three offices at the same time. He finally established the first bank in the town, then changed to a First National bank—this when charters were hard to get and the privilege was not free as now. I never met a brighter, smarter man than Danford and he grew rich fast on three and five per cent per month, the rates for money. He lacked discretion and made too public the nature of his business and his daily 'rake offs' which he should have kept to himself. He left here with a good stake and moved to Osage City and afterwards branched out in a syndicate of banks extending from Caldwell to Carbondale. All went to pieces one day and he was held up at Caldwell by the cow men, a rope put around his neck to scare him to make good the losses to the Caldwell people; but he persuaded the lynching committee to spare his life and he would straighten out matters; but if they killed him they could never hope to secure a cent. His plausible reasoning and the efforts of his true wife in his behalf got him out of his tight place. His wife once nursed me through an attack of bilious fever which followed my experience of the tornado here and I gratefully acknowledge my debt of gratitude therefore and for her other kindnesses of heart I make thankful and respectful recognition.

"Judge J. C. Lambdin was the youngest old gentleman I ever knew. He was a friend that could be depended on, as true behind your back as he was warm and genial to your face. His tall, commanding form would have made him a man to be observed anywhere. He fought the county seat and political battles of El Dorado with a fervor that was admirable. At a time when he needed it I was able to help him secure the government place he held when he fell dead in Wichita and his warm appreciation of my efforts in his behalf made me feel good all over whenever I thought of the deed. I was pall bearer at his funeral and God knows I mourned him sincerely.

"Bill Galligher, Col. Henry T. Sumner and W. P. Campbell were the legal lights of those early days. Galligher had great natural ability and a homespun grade of wit that always provoked laughter by its dryness and quaint expression. The Irish in Sumner was the dominant characteristic, and he had the whole town nicknamed. Some were bish-

ops, others president, elders, princes, grand dukes, and other hifalutin titles.

John Long in those days talked learnedly of history and his war and political knowledge was unequalled among us all. There was another John whose surname was Donnelly, who was the wit par excellence of the town. He was a harness maker by trade, but upon his first appearance he played the role of a tonsorial artist. When John's nerves were all right you got a clean shave, but after an alcoholic jubilation, how your face would suffer and bleed. John sold his barber shop and opened out in the horse millinery line and did a flourishing business, put on the brakes and made a splendid man of himself. At repartee he was a regular terror and there was a pitched battle in the joke line ever waged between John and Frank Frazier and John Betts—one side having the victory for a time, but ever watchful for surprises. John had a mule that he had taken in trade that he wanted to sell. He led him down town from his home stable and hitched him to a temporary awning post in front of his shop. He found a farmer wanting a mule and was arranging terms of sale and eloquently expatiating on the many good qualities of his mule with the farmer who was inside the shop. Frazier had taken in the performance when he saw the farmer examining the mule, and when he went inside with John, Frank walked quietly down the street from his corner store above and when right in front of the mule took off his slouch hat, flourished it and with his characteristic 'Get out you son of a jackass,' he scared the mule so badly that he jerked the awning post out and galloped up Main street at his best pace taking the post along with him. Donnelly and the farmer came rushing out and gazed at the vanishing beast and the farmer told Donnelly that he would not give a dollar for such a vicious animal. Donnelly looked down the street and saw Frazier so unconcerned and quiet and he at once smelled the mouse and waited for his turn. There came a Polish peddler one evening to his store, who could talk Hebrew lingo better than he could English. Donnelly told him there was a merchant in the store on the corner who spoke the same language the peddler did. 'He is ashamed, however, of his nationality,' said Donnelly, 'and has changed his name since he came to this country. He calls himself Frazier now but his old name was Slavinski. Come with me and I will introduce you to him, and when you address him in his old home tongue I think he will be glad to see you and will buy a bill of goods from you.' The peddler was taken to Betts & Frazier's and Frazier was called for and introduced to him. He began giving Frank his Hebrew lingo at once and copiously. The stony gaze of Frank soon riled him and as he did not reply he changed off to broken English and rudely damned him as a man ashamed of his country and his mother tongue and walked out of the store in disgust. Of course Donnelly stayed and enjoyed his avengement of the mule trick.

"C. M. Foulks, who managed the J. C. Fraker general store, was one

of the 1870's, a tall young man, with piercing black eyes, raven hair and high color in his cheeks. Charley was the handsome man of his day. With a young blonde wife in striking contrast to his brunette style, the pair was much admired. I had the honor of prescribing for him for indigestion and dyspepsia, and he now claims he had to leave town to escape my medicine and avoid an early grave; truly an ungrateful accusation for my tender care of his health and my recommendation to always take gentian in his.

"Ed C. Ellet was the first of the young men to bring a wife here. He built the house that I. C. Thomas now owns, the first one south of J. R. Cooper's. (This house stood between the homes of R. H. Hazlett and Dr. F. E. Dillenbeck and is now removed.) It looked a long distance out to his home, for there was a large tract of unoccupied land between the four corners and his lot. He was joked about building so near Towanda and asked if he would have his mail to come to him at El Dorado or Towanda. This location is now the choice one upon the town site. We had our first large surprise party at his house, taking canned cove oysters, crackers and canned fruits with us. Mrs. Ellet furnished the milk and made home-made cake, and the jolly time of that party was the topic of talk for many weeks, and before and after this party were quotable dates concerning all events for many months thereafter. Mrs. Ellet had what the French call chic, and was so pleasing and gracious of manner that everybody was her friend. She was very young and extra good looking, and when we bachelor youths would visit Ed's snug and attractive home we would be full of envy at his comfortable lot. That picture hastened on the Benedict act with many a lonesome youth.

"Wm. Price was one of our first teachers and school principals. He was useful in all good works, superintendent of the union Sunday school, and the Sunday he took off to get married, Geo. Tolle, who was secretary, read the Scripture lesson, the one that speaks of the man who married a wife and could not be on hand. George's application was considered a good one. If he had desired a coup de etat he could have taken the superintendency.

"James Thomas was sheriff in 1870 and made a fine officer. After his time expired he opened what was then called the Palace Saloon. Jim claimed he started the saloon because he was a philanthropist and realized that men in those days of excitement and rapid development would drink and use daily a certain amount of stimulant; he proposed to give them good goods in his line to substitute for the sulphuric acid drinks, a milder poison and a slower one. His new era was for the general betterment, and under the benign influence of his better goods, the howls on the street at night were lessened; his whiskey had less fight in it and did not beget a fusilade of revolver shots as a fitting accompaniment. So his mission paved the way in due time for the evolution of the belief that even good whiskey saloons were not a necessity to the welfare of the town, and by process of further thoughtful development

came the climax of the absolute prohibition that now prevails in Kansas. Jim started the ball a going, I really do believe.

"R. T. Whelpey came here from Chicago in April, 1870, to clerk for Gardner & Gilmor. Dick, as he was familiarly called, was a city youth all over, and the country air and the hunting so handy was a great treat to him. He took his gun one afternoon and went out and shot a turkey buzzard. Thinking he had killed a genuine turkey he proudly fastened the bird to the barrel of his gun and sailed up Main street with his trophy. When he struck the Betts corner the crowd that was there (same way you will find the corner today) took in the situation and cheered him lustily as he passed. He took it for a compliment till he was told of his mistake and he was all broke up and had to buy the brandied peaches to have the thing hushed up.

"I hardly know if Frank Gordy is far enough away to make it safe for me to dare characterize him. When Frank was "off," no frontiersman was ever more gentlemanly, genial or kindhearted than he. Nothing small or mean about Frank; generous to a fault, lavish with his money which he carried in rolls; pleasant to meet and intelligent in his talk which had a spice of racy western phrases that to a novice were entertaining and captivating. He was the beau ideal of his kind. When he was "on," oh, my! but he was the holy terror of the place. He would ride his Cheyenne pony into any store he could enter from the sidewalk, demand to be waited on for his particular vanity, which was cove oysters in the can soured up with acid vinegar to a pitch that would pucker up his tongue and mouth so that his volapuk would be shut off and he could only gesture like a deaf and dumb man. Those gestures, however, were of a nature that spoke louder than words and made his attendants waltz to his signs with amazing alacrity and no smart clerk here today could move so fast as did the clerks and proprietors of the store Frank honored with his horseback visits. There was no polite 'come again, sir, we will be pleased to see you.' When Frank backed out, the door was generally closed and bolted for fear he would ride in again. I will remember my first observation of his peculiar prancing. It was only a few days after I became a citizen that just at dusk R. H. Cooper drove over from Emporia with a spring wagon full of prospectors and left them at the hotel. It was just before supper and the hotel office was crowded with the waiting hungry throng. Frank opened the door and inquired if Cooper was within; said he wanted to kill him, because he was not going to allow anyone from Emporia to come down here and run the town. He had his pistol in hand and not finding Cooper he blazed away at the lamp which had a reflector behind it and was hung well up on the wooden partition. How quickly that office was emptied and the guests dispersed! Some lifted the windows and jumped out, others rushed out by way of the dining room and he was left to sole possession. It was 7 o'clock before things were calm and supper could be served. It was his night to howl and he thoroughly enjoyed himself.



His tempestuous career closed one night and for how, when and where I refer the readers to Elisha Cook of Fairview. This past time I have spoken of was the mere ebullition of the eccentricity and idiosyncrasy of Frank when 'on.' I have done him justice when he was 'of,' and if he should ever see these lines I beg his pardon for my little tale of his reckless days. He owned the 160 acres south of Central avenue, the original town site of El Dorado and received many thousand dollars from the sale of his lots. One street of the town bears his name and he gave what is now the park to the town.

"Old preacher Hathaway was a Universalist, came here early in '70 and took a claim east of Dr. E. Cowles' farm on the Eureka road. The first night in the old stone hotel there were some thirty-six of us sleeping upstairs and soon after the old man went to bed he began snoring at a fearful rate. He awakened Bob Holt, then the meat market man of the town, and Bob yelled out: 'If you don't stop that noise, my friend, one of my boots may get to wandering around and hit you on the nose.' The old man got out of bed, put on his trousers, went down to the hotel office and returned with a brace of pistols which he placed under his pillow and then announced that he had his light artillery with him and if any boots wandered in the vicinity of his nose he would reply with a cannonade. He soon went to sleep and snored without further disturbance, for every one felt that he was not carrying blank cartridges in his guns.

"Dr. J. A. McKenzie was the first competent physician who settled here. Perhaps no one today in El Dorado has more friends than the doctor. He has a taking way with him that is natural and not cultivated. So in the early days he became very popular and the dependence of the best families of the town and county. He always brings cheer to a sick room and his personal magnetism is known and felt. I once knew of a sick person twenty miles out in the country who declared if he could only have Dr. McKenzie prescribe for him and come and see him he knew he would surely get well. The faith in the case was with the patient; the doctor went, and, presto, the sick was well again.

"Ed Stevenson was our first permanent artist photographer and when tin-types were the vogue Ed could hardly supply the demand. His studio would be as busy on Saturdays as a grocery store is nowadays. He has stuck to us and is today well-to-do and enjoying life comfortably.

"Ben King had one of the best stores in El Dorado, about in the center of the block between Tolle's and Pattison's, was considered an honest square merchant and controlled a trade that stayed by him for years, long after the town put on city airs. He moved to the corner where Wackerle's grocery now is and his next door neighbor was Alex Blair, who first came to us as a stage agent in Augusta in 1870. Ben and Alex were like twins and in and out of each other's place of business and no

rivalry or business competition ever brought about disagreement between them.

"Frank Anderson's father, James Anderson, was one of the first men to buy a valuable Main street lot and thus show his faith in El Dorado's future. I think it was about where W. Y. Miller's drug store is. Being a man of positive character and sterling qualities, he was soon picked out as good timber for sheriff and the choice proved a good one. He made a most honorable, faithful officer. Frank succeeded him as a sheriff. After his retirement from business he was the constant companion of his son and the tie between them was so close and devoted that everyone spoke of it. Frank lives to mourn a loving father and to care for his mother with a filial affection that is most praiseworthy.

"Jerry Conner had El Dorado located on his land before the Gordy tract was laid out and has been here much longer than any of the comers of 1870. He was always the same genial man that he is today and his happy manner has always given him hosts of friends. Judge Lambdin and Sam Hyde were his running mates for years and the trio were always true to each other as steel.

"John Friend and his father, while not in town, lived so close that they were part and parcel of its life. Father Friend was elected to the legislature after a stormy political campaign against Baker of Augusta. He made a good speech, was a man of dignity and fine bearing and bore the brunt of many a political fight for El Dorado. John yet lives on the old place where he has a handsome home. He is growing old gracefully and the time is dealing gently with him.

"E. L. Lower owned the 160 acres north of Central avenue and his log cabin stood somewhere in the street between the John Betts corner and the Exchange National bank. In January, 1879, North Main street was laid out and several buildings were facing thereon before Lower's cabin was moved. He had sold a number of lots in his addition to Judge Lambdin, J. R. Mead and S. P. Barnes but still retained enough of his claim to have made him a rich man. He sold out in blocks however at low prices, but had considerable assets in notes. These he shaved at the appalling rates then prevalent and after Danford had his bank going it absorbed much of Lower's profits, so that in a few years he had virtually nothing left of his magnificent domain and promising estates. Lower was scrupulously honest and had great faith in mankind. He was thus imposed upon greatly to his detriment. There was great rivalry between the north end of town and the south end and when a newcomer concluded to buy lots he was bewildered by the tales he would hear, and many disgusted with the fight left the town and would not settle in it. The south end or the B. F. Gordy original townsite had the best rustlers. Dr. Allen White, Capt. Knowlton and Ed C. Ellet were the strong workers for it and they secured the best of the new buildings and thus settled the question. The standard of realty values thus established remains unimpaired today.

"Jim Karnes was our first city marshal and in 1870 the city marshal was a man of importance and was generally chosen for his intrepid qualities, for he often had wild and wooly men to handle. A stage stable hand got drunk one day and felt like running amuck, so Jim started out to take him in. The stable hand was on the corner of Sixth avenue and Vine street. Jim went to the stable and told the man he had come to arrest him. He picked up a pitchfork, ran Jim out of the barn and as far as the Chicago store which had the sidewalk elevated in front. Jim here made a stand and emptied his pistol at the advancing man with the pitchfork. He missed him and on he came, and Jim moved on.

"L. B. Snow was a prominent figure in the early days, a builder, contractor, brick maker and an all round, active man. He built the Exchange National bank building (now the Farmers & Merchants Na-



WATERWORKS, EL DORADO, KANS.

tional bank) and burned the first kiln of bricks that were made here. He had an interest in the first bank and was a money-maker.

"In these hard up days when values are depressed and money tight and scarce it is a mental feast to think of the flow of money in such abundance as we had here in the days of new beginning. A man would sell his claim, have \$1,000 or more in his inside pocket and come to town to put the funds into circulation. I remember a young man (we will call him Smith) who walked into my store one day and gave me \$1,200 to keep for him. He had been baching on his claim for some time and was seedy and rough looking. He wanted to try the other extreme for

a while, so laid out the best clothing outfit I had, with a broad rimmed brush hat that was a dandy, and high heeled top boots with yellow Texas stars on the front that loomed up like sunflowers in a field. He took his old togs and threw them out the back door and started in from feet to head with new under and outer wear. When arrayed in his new suit Solomon in all his glory never felt so well satisfied with himself. With pockets full of cigars and one tip tilted in the sangfroid style of a cowboy he departed for the barber shop for the completion of his clean-up. He filled up gradually and nicely and avoided the high toot pitch. The swagger to his air was inimitable and showed that his body was taking great comfort and ease in eating and drinking and making merry. Playing his little game of poker with the boys he happily passed the days, the weeks and lengthened out his dolce far into the months till the fatal morning came to him at last, as it does to all such revelers, and he was back to his normal condition—busted—cleaned out, physically jaded and nothing like the man he was when his ship came in with its first good freight. He went out from us, to the farther frontier to pre-empt or homestead or use some right still left to him for another piece of land and a fresh stake, if secured, would probably go the same way his first one did. The young man claim seeker and reveler is now a character of the past—we ne'er shall see his kind again.

"I will close with a brief mention of many of those who figured in the history of El Dorado twenty-five years ago. Charles Selig, who was the head clerk and manager for Dr. White, is here today, one of the wealthiest citizens and one of the best all around informed men in this state. Geo. Tolle, then clerk with Charles Foulks, is still with us, a leading merchant and a most respected man. Dr. J. A. McKenzie, John Carpenter, Dr. J. P. Gordon, his son Miller and J. W. Small are still in the flesh and still call El Dorado their home, but time is telling on the old guard and their number, like the old army pensioners, will grow less with the passing of a few more years till the last one will be left to tell his tale of the early days to an audience unappreciative, out of touch in heart and mind; and who will call the teller of the blue moulded narratives a bothersome bore who is interested only in the musty past."

#### FROM THE WALNUT VALLEY TIMES OF MARCH, 1881.

In March, 1881, El Dorado had reached the dignity of 2152 people; the county had a population of 17,006. From 1870 to 1875 there had been constant bickering and quarreling in the county over the location of the county seat. If no fight was on by reason of Augusta's efforts to wrest the county seat from El Dorado, then Douglass and Augusta combined in efforts to divide the county. These plans and plottings were frustrated by more or less honestly conducted elections in each of which a greater or less number of illegal and bonus votes were cast, not by one but by both sides to the contests. The A. T. & S. F. Railway had ex-

tended a branch line from Florence to El Dorado in 1877 and El Dorado's trade was large from the southern part of the county until the Frisco Railway was constructed in 1879 and Beaumont, Leon and Andover, smart little towns, cut off a portion of the trade. There was much depression felt in El Dorado, it was feared that Augusta would again seek to take the county seat which increasing votes would enable her to do. But El Dorado had been hedging. In 1870, largely if not entirely through private subscriptions the east third of what was then the court house was erected. This building steadied the minds of the people in the central portion and northern half. Augusta made her last battle and lost it. Then in '75 the county commissioners "repaired" the court house and in doing so managed to a little more than double its size. Then "Honest John" Fullinwider effectively headed off further trouble in that direction. He was elected to the state legislature and passed an act providing that when county buildings whose cost was \$10,000 or more were erected at the county seat, county seat elections should not be called oftener than once in five years and then only when petitioned by two-fifths of the qualified electors. Then the dissensions which had annoyed and disturbed the people for ten years forever disappeared. Things began to brighten for El Dorado because the Missouri Pacific railway was being extended from Ottawa southwest to Yates Center and the Fort Scott, Wichita & Western (now the Missouri Pacific) was organized and was building westward from Fort Scott, reaching El Dorado in the winter of 1882-83, bringing in a period of growth and development to the town and ending in the "boom" of 1887.

March 4, 1881, T. B. Murdock, then editor and proprietor of the Times in a "Goodbye" to the people of Butler county, announced the sale of the paper to Alvah Shelden. He called attention to his eleven years of newspaper work, beginning as an inexperienced writer and editor, of his endeavor to give the county a "respectable" newspaper and one that would represent the intelligence, the growth and prosperity of its people; and how well he had succeed he left his friends to say. He regretted the severance of social and political ties. He commended Mr. Shelden as an "honest, competent, and trustworthy man."

The new editor in his greeting said: "From my youth it has been my desire to be editor and proprietor of a newspaper. There is nothing particularly inviting about the profession except its variety, there is the spice of life about it but it entails hard and constant work to make it successful."

In 1881, according to the "Times," practicing attorneys in El Dorado were A. L. Redden, Robert A. Cameron, C. B. Doughters, C. A. Leland, A. W. Dennison, A. L. L. Hamilton, Lafayette Knowles, F. L. Jones and S. E. Black; physicians, M. E. Pratt, E. Cowles, J. A. McKenzie, C. H. Davis and C. M. Hughey; blacksmiths, Johnston & (William L.) Pattison; dentist, D. M. Doty; pork packing, John H. Betts; hotels, El Dorado House, Central, Lutz & Jackman, proprietors;

the Whitehouse, Dr. Allen White, proprietor (now home of Vincent Brown); National Hotel, opposite (north of) the court house, L. B. Snow, proprietor (now the White House). Mrs. Carrie A. Camp, proprietor; boot and shoemaker, Isaac DeCou and John Karouse, James Hughes; secret societies, Patmos Lodge, No. 97, A. F. & A. M.; El Dorado Lodge, No. 74, I. O. O. F., L. C. Pickerel, N. G., Joe E. McKenzie, secretary; Friendship Lodge, Rebeka Degree, W. H. Dulevy, N. G., R. H. Julian, secretary; Knights of Honor, E. W. Hulse, dictator, G. M. Weeks, Reporter; Royal Arch Masons, J. S. Dutton, H. P., C. N. James, Secretary; markets, John R. Stewartson; livery, Nate Roberson, Hecox & Fackler, I. N. and George Phillips (on the site of Ellett's opera house); architect, Charles A. Blanck; lands, loans and abstracts, D. L. Knowles, S. L. DeTalent & Company. (Thomas E.) Woods & (S. E.) Black; coal, J. F. Bartles; auctioneer, A. M. Warren; furniture—Abraham Muselman & Son, J. T. Oldham & Company; millinery, Mrs. J. W. Davis; land and loan agents at Leon, J. M. Kilts and J. King; stationery, (Alvah) Shelden & (Marion) Shelden, Dr. A. Barrett; El Dorado mills, Burdett & Weeks, proprietors; money lender, George W. Scott; nursery stock, William Litson, of Benton; dressmaking and sewing, Mrs. Coney; land and loan agents, William J. Cameron and J. M. Lambert; dry goods, clothing, ladies' cloaks, John H. Ewing & Company, H. H. Gardner & G. W. Tolle (who dissolved partnership at this time—Gardner to enter the Exchange bank as cashier), Meyer & Bros. (J. C. and Fred), including groceries; hardware, W. W. Pattison, Maris & Ream, (Ed. C.) Ellett and (C. L.) Turner; sewing machines, J. B. Marcum; Exchange bank, Neil Wilkie, president, Dr. Allen White, vice-president, Samuel L. Shotwell, cashier; Western Lumber Company, M. M. VanDenberg, manager; billiard parlor and saloon, James Thomas; druggist, (C. H.) Selig & (G. D.) Gossard (dissolved partnership about that time); Dr. Addison Bassett.

The officials of Butler county in 1881 were as follows: E. S. Torrence, judge; C. P. Strong, county clerk; Milton Bradley, treasurer; W. H. Douglass, sheriff; E. D. Stratford, probate judge; E. E. Harvey, register of deeds; Lafe Knowles, county attorney; C. N. James, clerk of the district court; J. W. Shively, county superintendent; H. C. Gabbart, county surveyor; J. M. Williamson, coroner; H. N. Pearse, Chelsea; S. F. Packard, Rosalia, and M. Guinty, of Fairmount, county commissioners.

Of course, not all of the business of El Dorado was represented in the "Times," but the larger portion was.

#### EL DORADO IN 1916.

El Dorado, the principal city and capitol of the "State of Butler," the largest county in Kansas, has a population of about 4,000. It is the geographical center of one of the wealthiest farming and stock-raising

counties in the West. It is beautifully located on the west bank of the Walnut river and sits like a queen on her throne, overlooking the picturesque and fertile Walnut valley, one of the richest portions of country east of the Rockies, and teeming with rural life and wealth, the result of nearly a half century of the toil, frugality and economy of the people who in all these years have called this "Garden of the West" home.

From a humble beginning, it has grown to be one of the most important points in Kansas from a social and business standpoint. Few cities of its size can show cleaner pages in municipal history, or a more solid, substantial balance in the ledger of the business world. Figures will not lie, nor will the balance sheet of the accountant mislead or deceive. The statements made in these pages are quotations from the records and are founded upon fact. Investigation by the doubter or the honest inquirer will reveal that no city of its size outside the manufacturing districts can show a greater volume of business, in receipts and shipments, trade in mercantile lines, bank deposits, receipts from the sale of cattle, horses, mules, hogs, poultry, eggs, dairy products and alfalfa and prairie hay, than passes through the legitimate channels in this market.

Two systems of railroads, the Santa Fe and Missouri-Pacific, with the McPherson branch, make it a point easily accessible from all directions, and these lines make close connections with trains on other lines from the principal cities north and southeast and west. Two good depots, one a new and strictly modern building, furnish ample accommodation to waiting travelers and have the capacity to care for and handle all of the enormous freight traffic that makes this city its destination.

County roads run in all directions through the country tributary to El Dorado, which ordinarily are kept in fine condition and make traveling on the public highways a pleasure. These roads are under the direct supervision of the county commissioners and a fund is provided ample for keeping them in good condition.

The schools of El Dorado are not only the pride of the city and country, but they, because of the high standard of their management and the success attained, have gained a reputation that is state-wide and attracted many outside of the confines of Butler county. The high and graded schools are surpassed by none and have few equals. Besides these very essential features El Dorado has nine churches, a high school, a grade school, two ward schools, and two to be erected at once, in time for next term; a \$10,000 Carnegie library, a new \$100,000 court house; a movement is on foot to erect a \$30,000 jail; more than two miles of new street paving; and the contract is let for forty-three blocks more, which is in process of construction.

The city is illuminated with a beautiful white way, and a system of Tungsten street lamps, which are located on all the principal streets. These lights are furnished by current from the service of the Kansas

Gas and Electric Company, which supplies light, heat and power to the business and homes of El Dorado. A system of natural gas is furnished by the Wichita Natural Gas Company for heating and lights. One of the most complete and efficient system of water works to be found in the West is owned by El Dorado and under municipal control. There are four banks, four big department stores, two general stores, two shoe stores, two big furniture stores, two undertakers, two large hardware and implement stocks, four large garages, five drug stores, two book stores and news stands, four jewelry stores, three dry cleaning and tailoring establishments, four hotels and seven restaurants and rooming houses, one ice plant, one carriage factory, one steam laundry, two meat markets, five bakeries, five grocery stores, six lumber yards, five blacksmith and wagon shops, two second-hand stores, four repair and shoe shops, two daily papers, two weekly papers, three printing establishments, one municipal building, six barber shops, two clothing stores, five supply houses for the oil field, one hospital, eight physicians and practitioners, one photographer, two millinery stores, one opera house, two moving picture theaters, one dairy barn, four livery and feed stables, one alfalfa mill, two fine parks, one branch of the Bell telephone system, two electric shops, three dentists, fifteen attorneys, two abstract offices, twelve real estate and insurance offices, one tinshop, one candy factory, one coal yard and hack line, two delivery systems, one transfer line, one poultry house, one marble and granite works, two elevators and warehouses, two plumbing establishments, sixty producing oil wells in the newly discovered field, and more being brought in daily; four oil companies located with permanent offices in El Dorado, and contractors and builders commensurate with the live, growing town, and one which has the brightest prospects in the universe.

El Dorado is most favorably located, has the most beautiful scenery, and more of it; more stately trees, whose branches meet across the street, and more of them, than any town in the West. It is a city of homes, many of them palatial. Its educational and church privileges and its high social standard make it an ideal community in which to live. It is a clean city, inhabited by a live, energetic class who never knew failure because of a disposition to do things and possessed of a feeling of pride in themselves and neighbors.

This story would not be complete without mention of El Dorado's Commercial Club, which is not only thoroughly organized, but has just completed the furnishing of elegant quarters, where the business interests of the community center and where the stranger looking for business and investment will find a cordial welcome and render every assistance it is possible to give. The members are a lively bunch, and their watchword is "El Dorado."



## CHAPTER X.

### TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND TOWNS.

(Continued.)

FAIRMOUNT TOWNSHIP—FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP—GLENCOE TOWNSHIP—  
HICKORY TOWNSHIP—LINCOLN TOWNSHIP—LITTLE WALNUT TOWN-  
SHIP—LEON—LOGAN TOWNSHIP.

#### FAIRMOUNT TOWNSHIP.

By M. Guinty.

Fairmount township was organized January 6, 1873. The first election was held in April following. The first township officers elected were: M. Guinty, trustee; A. J. Nation, treasurer; I. J. Davis, clerk; J. Cutler and F. S. Wallace, justices of the peace; D. M. Daffron and G. A. Watson, constables.

In 1870, H. D. Olinger and family, J. C. Olinger, George M. Daffron and James W. Ferguson came from LeClare county, Minnesota, and located in what is now Fairmount township. John W. Williams came in May, 1871, and Asa White in the fall of 1870, but later moved to Story county, Iowa. Mace Nickeson, John Fullerton and Samuel Fullerton moved from Illinois in the fall of 1870. Albert Worline, Marion Worline, Jerome Worline, Monroe Worline, John Burns and Alexander Kennedy came from Pleasant Hill, Cass county, Missouri, in May, 1871. Evan Jones and Dick Jones came in May 1871 also. J. K. Nellans came from Rochester, Fulton county, Indiana, March 22, 1876. In 1878 he bought and settled on the northwest quarter of section 3, which he made his home until February 27, 1916, when he met death by being run down by a Rock Island passenger train at Elbing, Kan. Peter Dyck, Abraham Regier, J. W. Regier and Bernhardt Regier came from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1885. These people were the nucleus of the Mennonite German settlement which has extended at this time to almost one-third of the present township. They are among our best citizens and have some of the finest farms and best improvements there are in the county. They are good citizens, thrifty, honest and hard-working men and women and attend to their own business strictly, apparently enjoying life to its fullest extent.

In May, 1871, the following families came from Woodbine, Harrison county, Iowa: I. J. Davis, John A. Baskins, A. Davenport, M. Guinty,

William Robinson and Henry Robinson. Singleton Shepherd came from Missouri in 1870 and resided here until 1890, when he left and moved to Chautauqua county, Kansas. Mathew Stipe came from Indiana in October, 1873, and is still residing in the township. A. J. Nation came in March, 1871, and died on the home place in March, 1905. J. J. Lyon and James Clark came from Missouri in 1871. J. B. Spangler came from Pleasant Hill, Mo., and settled on the south half of the northeast quarter of section 14. He is one of the few that still owns and resides on the land which he homesteaded. Alexander Hewitt came from Keokuk, Iowa, with his family in May, 1871, and still owns and resides on his original homestead. Milton Embry came from Missouri in 1872. A. G. Moore, J. P. Moore, Aaron Branson and A. Brubaker and families came from Iowa in 1871. Hiram Brown located in the township in 1871. In addition to those above named, quite a number of others settled in the township in early days and have since moved away and their whereabouts are unknown.

Fairmount township did not have as many homestead settlers as some of the other townships in the county for the reason that the odd numbered sections in the township were the property of the Sante Fe Railroad Company, having been donated to it by the government to assist it in constructing the railroad, and these sections were not subject to homestead entry, and hence there was not as many homesteaders in our township as in other townships. The township has seven miles of railroad, being a branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company. The town of Elbing is an enterprising little place, consisting of a bank, of which Herman Jackson is president, and D. C. Crosby is cashier; two general stores, a hardware and implement store, lumber yard, together with a postoffice, blacksmith shop and other lines of business and all seem prosperous. More live stock is shipped from this point than any other point within 100 miles of it on the Rock Island railroad. For a number of years, the citizens of this town were compelled to go to Peabody in Marion county to get their mail that being the nearest postoffice.

#### FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP.

January 6, 1873.

Fairview township is described as follows: Township 25, range 4, east. The first officers were elected April 5, 1873, as follows: For justice, J. M. Randall received 31 votes and Lewis Maxwell received 31 votes. They cast lots and Maxwell won. For clerk, H. H. Hulburt, 31 votes (elected), and G. S. Nye, 31 votes; for treasurer, J. A. Godfrey, 31 votes (elected), and H. G. Whitcomb, 31 votes; justices of the peace, Milton Braley and Isaac Varner were elected; constables, E. A. McNally and Benjamin Atkison were elected.

## PIONEERS OF FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP.

By H. H. Hulburt, in 1895.

It is pleasant to look over the past and to note the events of long ago. In my boyhood days I used to take great delight listening to my father and an uncle whose name I bear, talking over their early history, incidents of their boyhood days, and of scenes and neighbors of their old home in old Connecticut. There is a fellow feeling the old settlers of any community have for each other, and to recount the scenes and events of which each one is a part and personally interested is pleasant and helps to bind the ties of friendship and the bonds that make us neighbors and friends.

The first settlement made in my township, Fairview, was by a Swede named John Hink, in 1857, near the mouth of Rock creek. The same year, but a little later in the season, a man by the name of Burge Atwood settled in the northwest corner of the township. Atwood went to the war and died in the service of his country. In 1866 John Fulk bought the place of his widow. Fulk lived on the place ten or twelve years and moved to Elk County. Wesley Hager settled in the southwest part of the township in 1858. He did not own the place and left it, and a man by the name of McKee sold it to Martin Green, who in turn sold it to J. R. Appleman. In 1858 Peter Johnson settled in the northwest part of the township. He went to California. Isaac Gillian, Daniel Mosier, Anthony Davis, Ben Atkinson and Kirk and Perkins lived on section 19 at different times between 1860 and 1870. The first really permanent settlement on this section was made by Lewis Maxwell in the spring of 1872. Christian Jacobs settled in the northwest part of the township in 1866. His time of residence dates back farther than anyone now residing in the township. S. S. McFarlane settled in 1868 and is the second oldest resident. J. P. Blankenship settled on the townsite in 1867. He left years ago and when last heard from was in Arizona. Twenty-four years ago, during the summer and fall of 1870, the following persons made permanent settlement in the township: J. A. Godfrey, Hezekiah Hayman and son Robert. W. H. Fountain, Levi Thompson, E. B. Cook, J. F. Wheaton, F. M. McNally, A. J. Boyles, E. O., G. S. and J. T. Nue, Martin Pierce, A. S. Cory, G. D. McDonald, H. B. Hulburt, L. V. Olin, Silas Welch, Joseph Sharp and Frank Tipton, and of these twenty-nine are still residents of the township. Hezekiah Hayman and wife are both dead and are buried in the West El Dorado cemetery. His youngest son, H. C. Hayman, now lives on the old place; Robert Hayman lives in Middleport, Ohio; Levi Thompson lives in Michigan; J. T. Wheaton, when last heard from, lived near Charlotte, Mich. G. S. Nye left here twenty years ago, married and lives at Galesburg, Mich. His oldest daughter came to Kansas last summer and is teaching the school in the Coppins district in Plum Grove. G. D. McDonald, when last heard from,

was in Chicago; Martin Pierce died some fifteen years ago and is buried in the West El Dorado cemetery; his widow still lives on the old farm. Joseph Sharp lives in El Dorado and is an extensive fruit grower; Frank Tipton died in Colorado and was brought back and buried in the Towanda cemetery.

During the spring, summer and fall of 1871, the following persons settled in the township: I. D. Varner, George Byers, Thomas Andrews, William Paul, Levi Varner, H. H. Hulburt, J. A. Haymaker, Bert Olin, William Snyder, J. F. White, D. D. Winkler, William Painter, A. L. Wheaton, Richard Childers, Richard Taylor, J. M. Randall, H. G. Whitcomb, F. Flagg, Jacob DeCou, Mrs. S. J. Foskett, George Foulk, F. Meyers, Martin Reynolds, J. R. Appleman, William Grey, John Edmiston, E. G. Richards, John Hayes, John Stunkard, D. W. Weidman, Milton Braley, Charles Torrey, D. M. Baker, J. S. Dick, Mr. Potter and Charles Girod. Of these thirty-six only nine are still here in the township. Three, Milton Braley, William Paul, William Grey, are dead. Four are living in El Dorado, Richard Childers, Jacob DeCou, Martin Reynolds and D. W. Weidman. Thomas Andrews and L. M. Varner are in Oklahoma, Bert Olin is in Ohio, J. F. White is in Iowa, H. G. Whitcomb is in New Mexico, J. A. Haymaker is in Colorado and D. M. Baker is in Iowa. The whereabouts of the rest are unknown.

As this is not designed as a complete history, but to recall the early scenes of the county, I will not follow the settlement farther than the year 1871.

The first township election was held in April, 1873, nearly twenty-two years ago. I. D. Varner was elected one of the justices at that election. He is still a resident of the township and was elected to the same office last November. E. B. Cook and H. B. Hulburt killed a deer near where the Springdale school house now stands, during the winter of 1870 and 1871.

There are a few persons who deserve mention as early comers who are not usually spoken of in that connection. They were boys and girls when they came with their parents, but have grown to be men and women and the heads of families. Miss Rosette Childers is Mrs. E. B. Cook and has six daughters to help wash the dishes and make things lively. H. T. Foskett is married and has two pretty little girls and lives within a few rods of where he held the plow while his mother drove the ox team to break the first sod. Henry Hayman lives on the place his father homesteaded a quarter century ago; his wife was Miss Maud Heath, of Towanda. Then there are the Baker boys, Warren, Jake and Milton. Warren went to Iowa and got a wife and Jacob married Miss Minnie Varner, whose parents were among the first settlers here. Milt has rented a farm with a house on it and married Miss Dona Cameron. I. D. Varner has so many girls scattered around here and there that he can hardly keep track of them. Susie, however, is still a resident of the township, the wife of A. N. Torrey, and is prosperous

and happy. Emery Varner was a small kid when he came here. He is married now and lives near his old home. Most of the young people who came here at an early day and have married have, like their fathers, gone west or to Oklahoma.

In these early times it used to be a pleasant pastime in the fall of the year for two, three or more neighbors to drive to the Medicine Lodge country and hunt buffalo and lay in a supply of meat for the winter. "Jerked" buffalo is good, but the bison of the prairie, like the noble Red Man, is a thing of the past.

We look back with many pleasant reminiscences, contemplate with pleasure and meditate upon the scenes and incidents of the past. Most of these recollections are pleasing, but there are some that cast a gloom and a sadness over us.

A tragedy occurred during the fall of 1872. On the afternoon of October 20, a prairie fire started in the west part of the township, and the "head" fire spread in a northeast direction. Al Wheaton, his wife and two children, a girl and boy, were on the prairie with an Ox team near Four-Mile creek. When they saw the fire approaching, Mrs. Wheaton became frightened and took her little boy and jumped from the wagon. There were no improvements near and at that time no hedge rows broken, nothing to stop a prairie fire when once started. There were but few roads in the township at that time except the old California trail, but that would have no effect in stopping such a prairie fire. A prairie fire in those days was a fearful thing. Mr. Wheaton saw the danger they were in and tried to save his wife and boy. The little girl was left in the wagon, the team ran away, and this was the means of saving the little girl's life. The roaring, panting, awful flames came rolling on. They were all badly burned, and in a few hours death relieved Mrs. Wheaton and the little boy of their sufferings. Mr. Wheaton was so badly burned that he barely escaped with his life and was helpless all winter. One of their nearest neighbors saw the sad affair and caught the team and took the family home. The tragic death of Ainsworth Baker, son of D. M. Baker, was another sad event in early history. He was herding cattle for James F. White and went out in the morning as usual and was never seen alive. He rode a mule and it was seen late in the afternoon without a rider. Search was made, but young Baker was not found until the next day and was so mangled as not to be recognizable. Three Indians were seen in the vicinity that day, but whether they had anything to do with the death is not known.

Edwin Corey is one of the boys who grew up here, married and is still a resident of the township.

The early pioneer did not have the easiest time by any means. There were difficulties to overcome and trials and privations to endure. In 1871 Emporia was the nearest railroad point and freighting was a business that gave employment to many, and to be caught out on the prairie with a load of freight in a blizzard placed a fellow in a trying situation;

and yet that was the way many of the well-to-do farmers of the present day paid for their sugar and coffee, their flour and bacon, while they were getting a start.

The grasshopper year of 1874 was peculiarly distressing and fraught with trials and difficulties that tried the pluck and energies and stick-to-itiveness of the average Kansan. Butler county was in an undeveloped condition. Her resources were dormant and what at that time made her grateful for the kindness and help of friends and the charity of the world would at this time be thought to be trifling and insignificant. The summer of 1874 was a dry one; the amount of cultivated land was small, the experience in farming in Kansas was limited and the teams almost invariably small. Added to the drouth was the inevitable chinch bug, and when the first of August came there was little left to encourage the farmer and nothing left to appease the appetite of man or beast. On Saturday, August 7, a little before noon, grasshoppers came in countless millions. They literally obscured the sun, and what little of corn and potatoes and "garden truck" there was was licked up immediately. Something had to be done to relieve the wants of the people and make it possible for the settlers to live through the winter. And let me say right here that a wrong impression prevails in the East to this day in regard to this time and trial. It is still thrown at our State that we had to depend on the charity of friends. The older States seem to think we are not a producing people, and this, too, right in the face of the fact that Butler county has sent train loads of corn and provisions to relieve the flooded districts of Ohio, and the destitute of other places. Dr. Allen White and others went East and solicited aid for the people here. Donations came in generously, for which the people were very grateful. A county committee, J. C. Riley, Sr., C. C. Currier, J. D. Connor and Dr. Allen White were appointed to receive and distribute the provisions and clothing donated. Augusta also had a committee and made appeals for help. Lewis Maxwell, of Fairview, went to his old home in McLean county, Illinois, and secured a carload of corn. When it came it was divided up into ten-bushel lots and given to the farmers. That ten bushels of corn to each was all that many a man had to feed his team while he put in his next crop.

Those days are of the past, and Butler county and Kansas are able to take care of themselves and are ready and willing to help others of new and stricken lands if need be.

Added by Rollo Hulburt, 1916.

S. S. McFarlane died several years ago and his widow lives in El Dorado. J. A. Godfrey moved to Arkansas eighteen or twenty years ago, where he died. E. B. Cook and wife live at Elcelsior Springs, Mo. F. M. McAnally died and his widow lives on the old place. A. J. Boyles lives on the old place, his wife having died in 1916. S. A. Cory and wife

live in Towanda. H. B. Hulburt and wife are one of the few couples that live on the old homestead. I. D. Varner lives with his son Emery in Southwest Fairview and is in very poor health. H. H. Hulburt's widow lives on the old homestead. Richard Childers lives in El Dorado. J. M. Randall lives on the old home place with his daughter; his wife died some years ago. Mrs. L. J. Foskett lives on her old homestead with her son, Herman. He has bought the place. John Edmiston and wife live in Towanda. Charley Torrey moved to Colorado years ago. Charles Girod and wife live in the township. J. T. Nye died a few years ago. His son, Roy, lives on the old place. Mrs. Martin Pierce is deceased, and her youngest son Will lives on their old place. Chris Jacobs is dead and his youngest son Charley lives on the old homestead. Warren Baker, wife and family live in Fairview. Jacob Baker and family moved to Sumner county three years ago. Milton Baker and family moved to California years ago.

#### GLENCOE TOWNSHIP.

By L. D. Hadley.

What! Shall I write the history of a township? I, a beardless youth with matted hair? Wait! Hold on, old boy, look in the glass. Well, no wonder, when I stop to think, it was more than thirty years ago since I first cast my eyes on the beautiful prairie that constitutes Glencoe township. My first night was spent in the little village of Keighley. On inquiry I found that this town had been platted and deeded by Moses Turpen and Josephine, his wife, August 16, 1880, the same year the Frisco railroad was built, who, by the way, were at this time living in a dug-out or sod house just south of town. These were pious people of Mormon Faith—some of their descendants still live in Butler county. Perhaps the most striking character in the village was Uncle Stephen Thurman, who, for many years, kept hotel; but time has moved him and his good wife on and out. Of the older people living near Keighley, we might mention Allen Brown and wife, both deceased now. A number of their descendants are now figuring in the game of life in and near the town; also John Brown, Alex Husk, H. M. Taylor, the Paynes, G. W. Miller, John McRitchie, ——— Blankenbaker, Benjamin Fillmore and many others who served their time well, but now deceased. I believe the oldest settler of Glencoe township now living is Joel Parker, who still resides where he did thirty or more years ago. John Hoover, who drove his covered wagon into grass as high as the wagon itself and drove the stake on his claim, which was his home for many years afterward, is living in Oklahoma. F. J. B. King, now of El Dorado, was close to the first settler in the township. W. B. Keith was an old soldier and prominent township politician, will be remembered by many. Keith church was due to his energy.

Glencoe also has another town, Beaumont, located on the edge of the Flint Hills country. It was platted and deeded by Edwin Russell and Emma, his wife, March 28, 1881. Several additions have been platted, such as Cooper's, Hightower's, Summit and Rogers' additions. This thriving little vantage not only has the Frisco railroad, but a branch road built in 1885 leading off to the south and connecting Beaumont with many towns of importance. This town has a railroad turn-table and furnishes work for a number of men. The Beaumont State bank was organized in 19—, and F. T. Hopp is now cashier. This village is quite a healthy place in which to live and contains a number of happy people, and all lines of business are represented and in a prosperous condition.

Glencoe township was formerly a part of Little Walnut township. On May 11, 1877, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners asking that that portion of Little Walnut described as all of township 27, range 7, and all of township 27, range 8 in Butler county be organized as Glencoe township. The petition was granted and the first officers elected were: John J. Brown, trustee; G. W. Miller, treasurer; John McRitchie, clerk; Charles Taliaferro and W. B. Keith, justices of the peace; F. J. B. King and Peter Johnson, constables.

#### HICKORY TOWNSHIP.

By J. O. Everson.

Probably the first settler that lived in Hickory township was a man by the name of Myers, who, with his two wives, lived in what is now the David Brittan farm, but, like the element to which he belonged, he was compelled to keep in advance of civilization and so moved on about the year 1870. A child of his was probably the first white child born in the township, also a boy of his was probably the first white child buried in the township.

Dr. J. A. McGinnis, a widower, together with his brother, A. F. McGinnis, and his two sons, S. A. and W. F., came from Lyons county in the year 1868 and settled on a claim in the forks of Hickory on the southwest quarter of 14-28-7, and a part of which is now owned by Samuel Ramp and the remainder by James Brewer. His brother, A. F. McGinnis, pre-empted the land now owned by Clarence Dillon, the southeast quarter of 15-28-7. Among the next arrivals were J. A. Armstrong, who bought out Mr. Myers, and established a general store at Old Brownlow. Mr. Bartholomew and J. F. Comstock arrived about the year 1871 and settled on the south fork of Hickory. About this time J. M. Hampton and family came from Kentucky. Before they had settled on their claim and while yet living in their wagon, they had the misfortune to lose their only daughter, and, there being no graveyard, she was buried on what afterward became their home, now the farm



owned by Frank Comstock. About this time Wesley Cornell settled on what is now a part of the Evertson farm. H. L. Lemon pre-empted what is now the Will Hurt farm. Settlers began to arrive thick and fast. Aaron Surber, John Wing, John Hearne, Will Drury, N. Blunt, A. D. Stone, for whom Stone Branch was named, some of whom settled, and others drifted on away. Jerry Campbell, who now resides at Morrison, Okla., and H. M. Shannon, now of Attica, Kan., were typical happy-go-lucky, carefree bachelors of the frontier. When Hickory township was settled, Emporia was the nearest railroad town, from where most of the provisions were freighted. The first store was operated by Dr. J. A. McGinnis at his residence, where he dispensed green coffee, salt pork, sorghum molasses and corn meal. Few luxuries found their way into these frontier stores. With him from his home in Coffey county, he brought the first seed corn, which he sold at \$5 per bushel.

The first regular mail was carried from El Dorado by a son of Wesley Cornell. The trip was made weekly, most of the time upon a bare-backed pony, for which service he received the princely sum of \$3 per trip. The first school for Hickory township was conducted by a Mrs. Whittlesy, the wife of Fie Whittlesy, on the Hayes farm, now owned by Marvel Kelly. The first church service, which consisted chiefly of exhorting and hymn singing, was conducted at the home of J. A. McGinnis. The audience consisted chiefly of the local bachelors and recruits from the neighboring settlement on Rock creek, near the present site of Latham. Among these visitors were Prosser brothers, Will, James and Alvah, and the VanMeters. The first Sunday school was organized in 1881 by Dr. J. B. Carlisle, who was then just a school teacher, teaching in what is known as the Lost school house. Here the school was organized. When his term of school was out, Mrs. Martin Reecher took up the Sunday school work and continued it intermittently until her death a few years ago. The first court of justice for Hickory township was conducted by a justice of the peace named Lamont, who resided over the line in Logan township. His court was very popular because it was an established rule that all cases in his court were decided in favor of the party bringing the suit.

June 16, 1871, the settlement was visited by a cyclone which, having destroyed the city of El Dorado, lifted and did little or no damage until it reached Hickory township, where it committed havoc in the timber. The Semishes, who had recently arrived from Holton and were yet camping, were all, six in number, in their covered wagon. This wagon was blown over and fortunately no one was hurt. Jerry Campbell and Billy Brown were camped in a shack on their claim on Honey creek; the shack was blown away and the occupants were blown into the creek. The two-story frame house of Dr. J. A. McGinnis, which was at that time the only frame house in the township and probably the only two-story house in the county, was totally destroyed. In this connection might be mentioned the destructive fire which visited the township in

the fall of 1873. It originated somewhere near El Dorado and, driven by a northwest wind, swept rapidly across the country, driving the coyotes, deer and other wild inhabitants of the prairie scurrying before it, leaping streams as it came to them and leaving desolation in its wake, surging on toward the Indian Territory. Lumber which Michael Semist had hauled all the way from Humboldt, which he had to build his house, was burned while he looked on helplessly.

A history of the township's early development would not be complete without mentioning the vigilantes, which were organized by Dr. J. A. McGinnis and whose duty it was to dispense practical justice, unhampered by the frills and red tape of court proceedings. To illustrate: A certain Jack Armstrong, of unsavory reputation, was known to import and harbor lawless characters for the purpose of jumping claims of legitimate settlers. The vigilantes waited upon him at night and delivered their ultimatum to the effect that he leave the country within a stated time; a fight or rather a rackets ensued. Some shots were fired, some of which passed through the house of the host. It was never known whether the shots were fired by the visitors or by the host himself, after the party was over, in an attempt to create incriminating evidence against the vigilantes to be used when they should be summoned before the federal grand jury, as they were the following winter at his instigation, claiming to recognize the members of the committee by their voices. However, nothing came of it.

The township was organized, as it now exists, February 24, 1875. The petition for organization was headed by J. L. Moore and signed by fifty-three others. It was granted and an election ordered, and it was held at the residence of J. A. McGinnis, April 6, 1875, at which election the following officers were elected: W. S. Dubois, trustee; J. F. Comstock, treasurer; A. F. McGinnis, clerk; Thomas Campbell and W. H. Baxter, justices of the peace; R. Joiner and J. W. Hearne, constables; Z. T. Huston, road overseer whose duties were purely imaginary.

From this meager beginning, Hickory township has advanced to an enviable position among the family of townships in Butler county. It now boasts a population of 500, has under fence 23,820 acres, and in 1915 produced animals for slaughter valued at \$26,725. It had 2,700 acres of kafir corn, 869 acres of alfalfa, 577 tons of hay, produced 3,830 pounds of butter, and marketed milk and cream amounting to \$6,642; poultry valued at \$4,495, and has in cultivation a total of 15,495 acres. Hickory has also produced its full total of country school teachers, preachers and missionaries, and the following county officers: W. S. Buskirk, county surveyor; C. W. Buskirk, county surveyor; H. I. French, county superintendent; J. O. Evertson, county treasurer.

## LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

By George W. Stinson.

On the eleventh day of July, 1879, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by P. J. Hawes and fifty-two others, asking that certain territory be taken from Chelsea and Sycamore townships and organized as a township, to be called Lincoln township. The petition was laid over until the next regular meeting of the board, and in October, 1879, the petition was granted and an election ordered held at the regular election in November at Woodward precinct, for the election of township officers, which resulted as follows: George Hobbs, trustee; William Hoover, treasurer; A. H. Rose, clerk; C. Wing and John M. William, justices of the peace; Frank Freeman and James Rhodes, Jr., constables.

A great portion of the northern part of the township was known as "Speculator's Land," that is, land belonging to non-residents, having been located by land warrants or script of some kind at a price of from fifty cents per acre up to \$1.25. The odd numbered sections had been granted the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company by the government to assist in constructing the railroad through the State.

The first settlement was in the southern portion by Charles Jefferson, in the late fifties, who came here with Dr. Lewellyn, followed by Nattie Thompson and John Hobbs in the early sixties. In the summer of 1869, a family by the name of Johnson located on what is now the Nuttle ranch, in the southwestern part of the township, and the whole family, consisting of father, mother and three children, were drowned during that year.

An Englishman, name now forgotten, settled on what is now a portion of the Dowse farm, north of DeGraff. Section 27 was owned by Dr. Allen White and was always known as the Doctor's. Peter Hawes, John and F. C. Riley, Jr., William Bost, the writer, George W. Stinson and a few others were among the early settlers of what is now Lincoln township. A man by the name of Dick owned the land in section 26, through which the F. E. & W. V. railroad now runs, and Dick's Station was at one time the first station north of El Dorado, the postoffice being kept there and was called Woodward, after the maiden name of Mrs. Dick. There was no settlement north of this until you crossed the county line. A public road ran north to Florence and the United States mail was carried through by that way to El Dorado, Winfield and Arkansas City. Later, Col. A. C. Ramsey located near where the town of DeGraff now stands, purchaing nearly all the then vacant land in the township. He laid out the town of DeGraff, moved Dick's Station to that place, was instrumental in having a depot erected and stock yards built to accommodate himself and the cattle men of northeast Butler, and it is a fact that at one time more cattle were unloaded at those

stock yards for grazing purposes than at any railroad station in the world.

But very few of the early settlers survive. Some have moved to other lands; some have gone to that country from which they do not return. Some few and descendants of others are still living in the county.

Lincoln township is one of the banner townships of the county, adapted to both agriculture and stock raising, having some of the finest farms and ranches in the county, with a branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad traversing its entire length from north to south, a distance of about fifteen miles.

#### LITTLE WALNUT TOWNSHIP.

By Charles R. Noe.

The Indian Trust Lands: Terms of Settlement. The Osage Indians owned a strip of land across the south side of the state of Kansas, fifty miles wide, which included the south half of Butler county until the year 1868, when a strip twenty miles wide, which included all of the reservation in this county, was ceded to the United States government, in trust, to be sold to actual settlers. The price and terms of settlement were not promulgated until the summer of 1869, viz., from forty to one one hundred and sixty acres, in legal subdivisions and compact form, i. e., square quarters or forties must adjoin or Z-shape or a forty wide and a mile long or less, to each qualified settler. The price was \$1.25 per acre. The claimant must have at least ten acres of sod broken and living water, a well or spring (many wet weather springs at certain seasons served the purpose), and a house (a shanty, a dugout, a sod house, or even a hay house passed muster in those days.) An actual occupation of at least six months was required, but the great majority of the prairie claims were not "proved up" until 1880-1881. When desiring to make his final proof, the claimant appeared at the United States land office, located at Humboldt until the fall of 1870, removed to Augusta and thence to Wichita in 1872, where he received a declaratory statement of his intention to make his final proof. This statement gave the date and the names of two witnesses, neighbors, who could testify to the facts of his having complied with required conditions of settlement. This declaratory statement was published in a newspaper, as near the land as practicable, for five consecutive weeks, at the settler's expense.

Augusta township extended from the west line of Greenwood county thirty-four and a half miles to the east line of Sedgwick county until 1870, when Daniel Stine was trustee and assessor. In 1871, Little Walnut township was taken from this territory. It extended from the Greenwood county line to what is now the west line of Spring township.

It also included what is now the north half of Bloomington township. C. R. Noe was elected the first and only trustee of the township thus constituted. The formation of Bloomington, Spring and Glencoe townships in 1872, reduced Little Walnut township to its present limits of six miles square. H. H. Marshall, who had moved from Indiana the year before, was elected trustee.

Early Settlements—Though these lands belonged to the Indians until 1878, there were squatters along the Little Walnut several years earlier. As far back as 1860, a settlement was established at a spring less than one mile northeast of where the Leon high school building now raises its stately form. The ambitious squatters christened their prospect-



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, LEON, KANS.

ive city Crittenden. But the record drought of that year caused the fountain to recede. Excavating a depth of sixteen or eighteen feet and failing to find the living fountain, they loaded their effects into their horse-mobiles and quietly stole away, without even leaving a record of their names. The first permanent settlements were made in 1868. So far as the writer, who came in April, 1869, can recall they were W. Packard, Charles Tabing, bachelors, east; M. A. Palmer, south of the present site of Leon; B. F. Rickey, southwest of Mr. Palmer; Jacob Carey, west of

Mr. Rickey; W. T. Galliher, south of Mr. Carey; Addison Sawyer, west of Mr. Galliher; Joshua Tull west of Mr. Sawyer. These had their families with them. Mr. Sawyer was killed while out after his horses, about March 22, 1870. His remains were laid in the first grave in what is now the Leon cemetery. In the years 1870 to 1872, the uplands in this township were practically all settled, but it was a physical impossibility for the settlers to obtain fencing material to protect their little crops of sod corn, sorghum and truck from the Texas loughorns. Hence arose a great cry throughout the State for a herd law. This need was so pressing that the legislature passed a crude law in 1871, which was declared null and void by the courts a year later. The stock was again turned loose, to the great loss and discouragement of the "uplander." Thousands abandoned their claims. The stock men, as a rule, maintained that the prairies were fit only for grazing. But the stream of immigration was irresistible. Thousands of ex-soldiers and others inured to hardships were determined to make homes on these fertile plains. Hence the legislature of 1873 gave us the present stock law without any jokers in it. But, say, gentle reader, you who arrived within the last decade or two, you who gather your kafir by thousands of bushels and harvest your four crops of alfalfa each season, and perambulate and do your marketing in auto cars, it is well for you to know of some of the experiences and hardships of those who made present conditions possible. Here are mentioned a few of the drawbacks and discouragements which beset the pioneer. Whatever he had to buy, implements, groceries, clothing, etc., etc., were hauled on wagons two hundred miles from the Missouri river. The drought, without the drought-resisting products of today; the cyclone, the chinch bug, the grasshopper and the rapid fluctuation of prices. The horse thief also plied his nefarious industry with relentless persistency.

In the fall of 1870, three horses were taken from the lariat near W. Packard's cabin about dusk one evening. They were recognized as they passed the place of his neighbor, A. N. Sloan, and Mr. Packard was notified, and, in company with two of his neighbors, he started in hot pursuit. Near where is now the Harmony church they noted that the thieves had hastily pulled some grass, presumably used as a substitute for saddles. The third day they returned home with their recovered stock, badly jaded. All the information vouchsafed the inquisitive was, "Them thieves won't steal any more horses." That incident, followed by the lynching of eight men near Douglass, put a damper on horse stealing as a business for a time.

As to price fluctuations—In 1860, this chronicler paid \$2.25 per bushel for about No. 3 grade of corn; \$2.25 per bushel for potatoes; five cents per pound for salt and 35 cents per pound for bacon. In 1872, this same scribe sold Comrade James Dodwell, of Wall street, El Dorado, a nicely dressed hog for \$1.75 per hundred pounds, after butchering and hauling it twelve miles. That was the best offer he could get.

The first school in the township was taught by J. D. Porter in 1870, a mile west of the Frisco depot. The first school house was the Chenoweth, on the corner of section 16, a quarter of a mile west of the present stately Leon school building. It was built in 1871. T. O. Shiner taught the first term in it. A lively literary society flourished there and many notable debates were held. The society paper was a gem. Too bad that it was not preserved. This scribe would give \$10 for a file of it. The Christian church was organized there in 1872, by John Ellis, author of "The White Pilgrim." This was the first church of Christ organized in the county.

The first village to have a blacksmith shop, a drug store and a physician, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, was at the junction of the north and south branches of the Little Walnut in the fall of 1872. Some notable meetings were held there. One held during the winter of 1872-1873 was supposed to be epoch making. Two narrow gauge railroads were projected to cross at that particular point. They were to be built and owned by the people. Neil Wilkie, of Douglass, afterward a State Senator, and C. W. Packard, of North Branch, were the chief speakers. The proposed city was christened New Milwaukee. But the roads never got as far as the bond voting age, and the christener kept the key and stubbed his toe, so you all know Quito.

The drought, chinch bug and grasshopper nearly annihilated the crops in 1874. The little wheat grown, a few patches of oats and the early truck was all that escaped the devastation. The hopper arrived on the afternoon of August 13th. The floating army formed a cloud that dimmed the sunlight. Every blade of corn, even where it was in the shock, disappeared within a few hours. They literally covered the ground in some places to a depth of four inches. The lint on the lumber was eaten so that it showed spotted for two or three years. Fork handles and other hardwood tools and implements were nicked and marred by them. Having done their work of destruction, the bulk of them took wing on the 15th and 16th. However, there were sufficient left to literally fill the earth with eggs in favored localities. Mrs. Hopper drilled a hole an inch and a half to two inches deep and deposited a hundred eggs or more. Then she slimed them over to resist the moisture. In the early spring of 1875 they hatched out in great numbers. But subsequent cold and wet weather was such that few survived and there was no damage to speak of in this vicinity. The field north of the Leon cemetery was a peculiarly favorable locality for the deposit of the eggs. The eld was plowed shallow early in the spring so as to cut the hopper nests in two. The white eggs showed so thick as to give the ground something of the appearance of having received a skift of snow. This was the first and last serious invasion of the army hopper in this vicinity during the forty-six seasons of our residence.

Little Walnut township voted \$17,000 in bonds to the Wichita & Western Railroad Company (construction company for the Frisco),

whose western terminus was then at Severy, in the spring of 1879. When the line was located across his land, the writer gave the right-of-way and paid the president of the company, B. F. Hobart, \$150 to pay for the right-of-way across Charles Tabing's land, upon the promise to locate the depot where it now stands.

The Leon "Indicator" was born and the first house erected on the townsite in January, 1880. The first issue of the paper, a three-column folio, bears the date of January 31, 1880. Here are a few of the quips from its local page: "The Indicator may die, its editor will die, but Leon is bound to make a town." "Look here—Leon expects to have the first telegraph station in Butler county." "Don't laugh at us because we are little, it might make us feel bad, and if we should live to get big enough, you might feel bad, too." "If there are not one hundred houses in half a mile of the Leon town well, November 1, 1880, set us down as a poor guesser." At the above date the population of Leon was over 500 and it had taken rank, next to Douglass, as the fourth town in the county. The coming of the barbed wire fence, the early growing of hedge fences, the introduction of alfalfa and kafir corn and the building of the Frisco railroad set Little Walnut township forward at a great pace.

The first construction train reached the town April 29, 1880; the first regular passenger train from St. Louis arrived May 10th. The second issue of the Indicator, which had been dubbed the "Tri-Yearly," was published May 8th. Up to this date very few of the upland settlers had made final proof of settlement. But now the lands assumed a commercial value. Loan companies were established and anxious to make loans on them. Consequently the rush of the claimants to secure publication of their final notice was something fierce. The first issue of the "Indicator," a seven column folio, was printed on its own Washington hand press, June 18, 1880. It made the price for publishing these final notices \$3, which, up to that time, had been \$4 to \$5.

On Thursday afternoon, September 16th, fifty-two of these notices came from the land office to appear in the next morning's issue of the paper—and not a stick of type left in the office. But our printers said they would "stay" with us. So, after supper, we drove to El Dorado and secured from the late T. B. Murdolk, of the Walnut Valley Times, a big batch of nonpariel type. Reaching home at 11 o'clock p. m. the men fell to distributing that type into the cases. By 7 o'clock p. m. Friday, the work of setting the type, printing a full page supplement, folding and mailing the paper was completed; then home to breakfast and a good forenoon nap. That week the Indicator had one hundred and forty-three of those notices.

F. W. Beckmeyer established the first general store in Leon; Palmer & Westcott the first drug store; W. J. Martin the first hardware store; W. L. Beadle the first hotel; Postmaster Kenoyer moved the office up from Tong's watermill and he and T. C. Chenoweth opened



one of the first grocery stores; H. Belton was the first man on the ground, and opened a blacksmith shop. S. A. Brown & Co. established the first lumber yard. C. C. Miller was the local manager. A. Musselman, the first furniture store. Palmer & King established the first bank. Tong & Fetrow erected a steam flouring mill and T. J. Lindsey and H. P. Morgan started in the packing business in the early eighties. One year, they salted down 800 hogs. But, the hot competition by the big establishments, high freights, and a lack of capital flattened out both establishments. The loss of half our population, when Oklahoma was opened to settlement in 1889, curtailed business and caused many business changes.

A second paper, the Leon Quill, was established in 1885, by J. L. Stratford. O. W. Meacham became the owner and the two papers were consolidated. He sold to the original "Indicator" man in 1891. He sold the plant to J. B. Adams in 1894. After a few months, Mr. Adams moved the paper to Augusta, leaving Leon without a paper. In the spring of 1895, the business men of the town prevailed upon the original founder to re-establish the "Indicator," which he continued to publish until December 2, 1901, when he sold to L. L. Schmucker, who, in turn, sold to J. E. Hannon. He sold to C. W. King, whose office and building was burned in 1911 and the town was again without a paper. December 7, 1911, C. V. Cole established the Leon News. He was succeeded by J. W. Watkins in February, 1915. May 1, 1915, the present editor, J. S. Martin, took the helm and is giving us one of the best local papers, for a town of this size, in the state.

Little Walnut township has furnished two Representatives to the state legislature: M. A. Palmer, (who has also served as a county commissioner and register of deeds), and D. W. Poe, and one state Senator, Fremont Leidy, who also served as U. S. Internal Revenue Collector for a term of four years. James D. Anderson was elected sheriff from this township; likewise, H. T. Dodson. C. R. Noe was appointed a regent of the State Agricultural College, by Governor E. N. Morrill, in 1895, and served three years; filling the position of treasurer of that institution in 1896. The township has furnished a score or more of employees for the Frisco R. R. Co., including George Edgar, claim adjuster, and James Dunworth, a passenger conductor. Leon is perhaps the only town of its size in the state with the distinction of having had two full fledged brass bands at one and the same time. It has for years held the honor of having the best band in Butler county. In 1914, the city voted \$10,000 in bonds and had three prospect wells drilled to a depth of 1,500 feet. All proved dry. However, there is little doubt that gas, or oil, or coal, will be brought to the surface in this vicinity within a few years at most. Traces of coal have been found in several open wells, as far back as thirty-five years ago. The Leon public and high school building ranks with the best for a town of its size.

## LOGAN TOWNSHIP.

Logan township was formed May 2, 1874, out of portions of Bloomington and Union townships and comprises all of congressional township twenty-eight, range six. The first election was held at the residence of T. R. Kalker and the first officers were: S. M. LeMoins, trustee; T. J. Lindsey, treasurer; C. M. Price, clerk; B. H. Penn, justice of peace; L. A. Drury, constable.

Among the early settlers of what is now Logan township were: John C., Isaac, Ben and Alonzo Jones; W. R. Burroughs, J. J. Dedrick, W. M. Kelly, Joseph L. Potter, J. W. Shidler, W. A. McCullough, A. Lurzadder, J. S. Bogle, J. M. Cotton, the Dunn family, John B. Holford, James Sears, A. J. Lightfoot, Minos West, Harry Wait, J. J. Getz, B. J. Russel and many others. Very few, if any, except J. J. Getz and Mrs. B. J. Russell now own, or reside on, their original claims. Some of the best agricultural and pasture land in the county are in this township. Many fine stock ranches and farms are located here. Well watered and plenty of timber along the streams and at one time was the banner portion of the county for the deer, the antelope and wild turkey. No railroad enters or crosses the township but coal, oil, gas and other minerals are to be found in abundance and its people are noted for those qualities that make it one of the most desirable places in which to live, so much so that there has never yet been found the person who would not rather live there than die anywhere else.

## CHAPTER XI.

### TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND TOWNS.

(Continued.)

MILTON TOWNSHIP—MURDOCK TOWNSHIP—PLEASANT TOWNSHIP—  
PLUM GROVE TOWNSHIP—PROSPECT TOWNSHIP.

#### MILTON TOWNSHIP.

By Dr. John Horner.



INDEPENDENT OFFICE, WHITEWATER.

January 6, 1873, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners asking that a new township be formed out of the territory comprising congressional township 24, range 3, east. Petition granted and an election ordered at the regular time of holding election for township officers. The election resulted as follows: C. P. Strong, trustee; G. H.

Sanders, treasurer; G. W. Carter, clerk; B. Clouce and H. H. Storms, justices of the peace; E. J. Powell and Charles Barker, constables.

Milton township, so named after Milton C. Snorf, its first settler, is a block of thirty-six square sections, and joins Fairmount township on the south, which is situated in the northwest corner of Butler county, Kansas.

Milton C. Snorf, the first settler in the township, located on the northeast quarter of section thirty-six in 1868. He was followed soon after, and in about the order named, by W. G. McCramer, Stark Spencer, Levi Spencer, George Cornelius, Sylvester Foster, George Sanders, W. B. Mordough, Charles Barker, L. C. White, George Ogden, E. J. Powell, Sam Thomas, the Storms, Neiams, Hoss, Harder, Sparks, De Talent, Hershley, and many others.

The Holden post office was located on section eighteen and B. C. Leveredge was appointed postmaster in 1871. After a few years Thomas H. Storms was appointed postmaster and the office moved to

his residence on section eight. Later the office was moved to section twenty and E. T. Eton was appointed postmaster. He moved the office to Brainerd in 1886 where it remained until 1883, when changes in rural routes were made and the Brainerd post office discontinued, a post office having been established at the town of Whitewater near the crossing of the tracks of the Missouri Pacific and Rock Island railroads.

Towanda was the nearest post office in 1869 and 1870. The nearest railroad was at Emporia, seventy miles away, from which place lumber and other necessities were hauled. There was a saw mill at Florence and a grist mill beyond Florence, where grain was ground. A trip to either place meant two days and a night. On the prairie were many antelope, some deer, and plenty prairie chickens. In 1871 Mrs. E. T. Eaton taught our first term of school in a small house built on the southwest quarter of section twenty, township twenty-four, range three, east, now in school district No. 95. Holden school house was built later in '71 on the same section. In this school house the Holden Literary Society held its meetings for years. The Holden "Times," a product of this society, was read at each meeting. In the Times were discussed farm, home, and literary topics. It also had a local column that kept the boys guessing who would come next.

Most of the land in Milton township was occupied by homemakers about 1870 and '71, and a battle for existence was on—the transformation of the prairie soil to a seed-bed. This required much time but willing hands guided the plow.

The first township officers were G. P. Neiman, justice of the peace; E. T. Eaton, constable; George Carter, clerk. School districts were laid off in blocks of two by three miles, on which school houses were erected. Teachers were paid about twenty dollars per month. These school houses were used for many purposes, meetings, Sabbath school, preaching, elections, secret societies, concerts, etc.

But, Work! More Work! Better Work! was the slogan and the soil yielded fair crops of corn and oats. Spring wheat was first tried but was not a success, the chinch-bug being long on that variety of wheat. Fall wheat was then tried with better success. Before the herd law was enacted, herds of cattle grazed over the prairie in the summer, and hay was put up where shelter and water could be had they were wintered and rounded up occasionally. These cattle (Texas) knew nothing of corn and were put on the market as "grass fed stock." One very severe winter in the early seventies hay was put up late on sections thirty and thirty-one in this township, and a large bunch of rather poor cattle placed there to winter. The weather became bad, the ground froze, snow covered the earth and the north winds were blizzardly. Many of these cattle died during the winter and the following spring. Incidents of this kind taught the farmer and stock raiser that a better way of caring for the cattle was necessary if profit was to be derived from this industry, and so the native cattle were bred up to a better

standard, pastured during the summer, and fed at home on good hay, fodder, grain it, etc. during the winter. This opened the way for the dairy with a side profit on cream and cheese, and a solid foundation for better cattle and more hogs.

Grasshoppers came in 1874 and destroyed the crops and cleaned up nearly all vegetation, even tobacco plants, red peppers, etc. People discouraged? Well, naw! Need any help? Naw! "Got any?" "Any?" "Oh, yes, got friends back East, guess can pull through." A carload of friendship did come and was thankfully received, seed corn especially. Yes, many were glad to get the seed corn and leave a dollar in its place. The debt was cancelled in 1889 when Kansas sent East a whole train load of friendship, for the needy poor. In the spring of '75 the eggs



8517A High School Building, Whitewater, Kans.

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, WHITEWATER, KANS.

hatched out and the ground was thickly covered with young hoppers but heavy and frequent rains drowned a great many and those left departed when their wings developed, not, however, until much of the early planted corn was destroyed. Discouraged? No. Fall wheat looked good, the team and old bossy had lived on it all winter, and bossy had been away or sold for anything one could get for them. Spring planting; oats were looking good. May—everything was looking fine. June—oats rank, corn blossoming, and looking well filled and taking on the golden color. Wheat was well done. The big hail storm of 1875 did the work of a week. Trees and hedges were stripped of their foliage, grass was mowed down, wind-blown, dows broken, loose stock injured, prairie chicken and rabbits killed. A

sycamore board was taken up by the wind from sections 22-24-3 and found near the town of Burns. Discouraged now? Nixey. Came to Milton township to get a home and intend to stay.

In June, '72, a heavy wind storm did considerable damage, wrecking a few small buildings; corn was blown down very badly but next day the wind blew quite strong from the opposite direction which straightened the corn, whereupon Neighbor S. remarked: "This is the darndest country I ever saw; the Lord knocks the corn down one day and sets it up the next."

In '76 a colony of Prussian Menonites located in the township, built large houses and barns and put out orchards, etc. They are good farmers. They raise fine horses and cattle. Their word is as good as their bond, and they believe in settling their own affairs without resorting to law. About this time quite a number of Swiss Menonite families located in this township and vicinity. Each of the above maintained a church of their own, services being conducted in their native tongue. All of these people are sincerely devoted to their church and are good neighbors, upright citizens, and have large families of native born American children.

The early settler found that about all of the timber land and some of the choicest bottom land was owned by non-residents. This land was known as Potwin land, Lawrence land, railroad land, etc. The timber on this land made it possible for the early settler to live on this prairie until the railroads were built across this portion of Kansas, upon which coal and other necessities could be brought in. The loss of timber to the owners of the land was a gain in the end, as the price of their land was increased by the development of the township.

Lord Harrison, an English subject, owned much land in Milton township. Houses of a like pattern were placed on each quarter section and rented or leased out on a rental basis. These renters suffered all the hardships and many of the inconveniences of the real homesteader. Some of this land has been sold to real settlers. Lord Scully also owned land in Milton township. This land was leased for cash, the lessee paying taxes. The object in making this statement is to show that if this land had been owned by individuals it would have been improved as much as adjoining farms, thereby improving the appearance of the township as well as adding value to these farms and evening up taxation.

The early settler was not a grumbler. If things did not come his way he went after them. He would exchange work with some one if he needed help. He would take his team and haul lumber or other freight from the nearest railroad if he needed food for himself and family. He was a worker, not a kicker. The loss of a horse or team would ruin a man's prospects of making a home or supporting his family. Horses were usually picketed out on the prairie at night and it was easy for a person so disposed to untie a horse and be miles away by daylight. This kind of loss became so frequent and annoying that the settlers formed a

society for their protection. A few of the thieves were caught and tried and the rest of them departed. That put a quietus on horse stealing for some time. With all his work, trials, and tribulations, the settler took time to attend surprise parties, concerts, and Fourth of July celebrations. The first Fourth of July celebration was held on the west branch of the Whitewater on G. P. and J. H. Neiman's place in 1871. The usual program of patriotic songs, picnic dinner and dance was observed.

In forty-five years there has been no failure of wheat crops, though some of the crops were damaged by chinch bugs. The Hessian fly has also done considerable damage, but by sowing late and not on stubble ground, there is little fear from the fly. Corn failed in 1874, 1901 and 1913 but in 1889 Kansas had a bumper corn crop.

The first child born in Milton township was Edgar B. Brumback.



STREET SCENE, WHITEWATER, KANS.

December 6, 1870. The first death, a child of Harley Patterson, was in the winter of 1870.

In 1885, the McPherson branch of the Missouri Pacific came through this township. A station was located near the center of the township and the town of Brainerd was quickly built up and did a thriving business until about 1888. The Rock Island railroad came through the western edge of the township and located a station and built a depot at the junction of the roads, then the Missouri Pacific, put up a depot and the town of Whitewater was laid off at the junction. Chester Smith moved his house from Annelly to Whitewater in January, 1888. This was the first house in Whitewater. Two more houses were moved in from Annelly. About this time the town of Brainerd was put on wheels and

about thirty-five business houses and residences were moved in to Whitewater. I. H. Neimam was appointed postmaster; S. L. Matter, deputy postmaster, and the infant, Miss Whitewater, stepped upon the stage of action with her best bow.

"Whitewater Independent."—In a reminiscent way one's thoughts occasionally return to the "old times," especially so is it of your first home. Remembrance of it may be somewhat clouded, but there comes to you some recollections that are vivid and lasting. This metropolis of northwest Butler county, at the intersection of the Rock Island and Missouri Pacific railroads, and platted as the town of Whitewater by the Golden Belt Town Co., has undergone the hardships of a small town, and now taken its place as a city of importance and a business center. Whitewater has always been a city in many ways, and its citizens have that characteristic push and energy that builds cities. Their brain, their brawn, their pride and enthusiasm is well marked and a visitor within our gates can only say for us words of praise for the past and well wishes for the future. And incentive to either build or help build the best town in these parts has been that its location, surrounding territory and natural advantages enjoyed by few of the later built cities, gives it the prestige, and with a vim, its citizens, shoulder to shoulder, push and don't pull. Cities builded by them are the ones that grow. As a part of the history of this city we may start from so far back as 1885, when the Missouri Pacific railroad was builded. The Rock Island survey was made through here the next year, and in August, '87, the first trains were run. In August, '87, Whitewater had two general stores and a blacksmith shop. The first to start business here were: G. H. Otte, groceries; S. L. Motter, groceries; John Eilert, general merchandise; C. H. Bruhn, blacksmith; M. M. Bishop, hotel. Mary Neiman was teacher of the first school.

The first newspaper was the "Herald," and its first editor was Al M. Hendee. Before this it was known as the Brainerd "Sun," edited first by Brumback and McCann, and was moved later by Mr. Morrison to this city in 1889 and the business has grown from a small country office to one of the largest enterprises in the city, under its present management. The first bank was moved here from Brainerd in 1889. Its officers were: A. H. McLain, president; A. H. McLain, Jr., vice president; E. S. McLain, cashier. The first postmaster in Whitewater was I. H. Neiman in his own building, occupied by S. L. Motter as general store, who was assistant postmaster under him. Mrs. Nellie M. Godfrey, in the building now occupied by the "Independent," was second. The next was H. W. Bailey, editor of the "Tribune" at that time. Next was G. W. Penner, followed by C. H. Otte, the present incumbent. To date there have been two Democrats and three Republicans in the postal service as postmasters. The first mail route on the rural free delivery was established in 1902. In June, Isaac Neiman was the first carrier on the route, with his father as substitute. The route is north and east.



The present carrier is T. J. Powell and J. T. Welsh as substitute. The first carrier on route No. 2 was George Corfman.

In early days Whitewater had a United States male carrier from the Rock Island depot while the postoffice was out of the limit. He was O. C. Shay. The Missouri Pacific never had one, other than its agent. The Rock Island is now within the limits. The first school directors of Butler and Harvey county district No. 95 were: John Eilerts, Joseph Weatherby, and Chester Smith. Under their term of office the present school house was built. Wert and Froese were the contractors. The first grain buyers were: E. T. Burns on the Missouri Pacific and W. A. Sterling and brother on the Rock Island. The first meeting of the council was held in the school house. The incorporation of the city took place in 1889. The first mayor was G. H. Otte. Councilmen were J. Weatherby, G. G. Cooms, H. H. Weachman, Fred Breising and E. T.



BANK OF WHITewater, WHITewater, KANS.

Burns. The first city marshal was Wm. Newbury. The board of canvassers for this first election were: S. L. Motter, W. F. Wakefield and E. L. Neal. The first brick yard was operated by L. Fessler of Newton with George Brazee as foreman. The first brick building was built by G. W. Penner and its first occupants were Penner and Motter with a stock of general merchandise. This building was built of Whitewater brick.

Whitewater has had only six fires of any importance in its nearly twenty years of existence. The first was the barn of G. H. Roach. The others were barns also and were but little loss.

The waterworks system was begun by McLains, the bankers. It was built by John E. Ford of Newton. The first location of the post-office was in the building now owned and occupied by the "Independ-

ent." The first pastor of the Reformed Church was D. B. Shuey and of the Lutheran, H. Acker. The first church parsonage of which Whitewater has two, was purchased by the Lutherans. The other was built by the German Reformed. The first elevator was built by E. T. Burns in 1889 near the Missouri Pacific tracks on South Main. It was later moved and consolidated with the Whitewater Mill and Elevator Co., of which he is a member. Mr. Burns was also the first coal dealer in Whitewater. The first drug stores were owned by E. S. Raymond, from Brainerd, and G. H. Otte, from Annelly, in '89. The first resident carpenter was Joseph Weatherby of Annelly. The first secret order was the Independent Order Odd Fellows, in 1889. Its first meeting was in Eilert's, now Huguenin's Hall. The other orders represented here are the Masons, Ancient Order United Workmen, Modern Woodman and Grand Army of the Republic. The first ladies' order was the Rebekahs, the other the Woman's Relief Corps. The first furniture dealer was Mr. Henry Heigerd, who occupied the north room of the Smith building which was the first store building moved from Annelly. The first retired farmer to move to town was C. Miller. Many have come since. The first butcher shop was started by Fred Breising. The first barber was O. E. McDowell. He was also the first painter here. The first lawyer was Peter E. Ashenfelter. Within the limits of Whitewater are few people who do not try to make it a better place to live in socially and morally. The morals of this community compare favorably with the best—none better while there are many worse.

#### MURDOCK TOWNSHIP.

By W. O. Moore.

Murdock township, comprising the territory known as township 25, range 3, east of the principal meridian, was organized in March, 1873, and an election was ordered for township officers at the general election in April. Voting place to be at school house in district 25. The following officers were elected: Wm. Spencer, trustee; W. Goodale, treasurer; J. N. Shibles, clerk; Renben Moore and B. F. Hess, justices of the peace; B. E. Doyle and A. G. Davis, constables.

The township was named for the late Thomas Benton Murdock. Anthony G. Davis, now a resident of Benton, was, I believe, the first settler in what is now Murdock township. Mr. Davis came to Butler county in 1857. In the year 1868 he had a little store in the southwest corner of Murdock township. Goods were hauled in those days with teams from as far as Topeka; and the county abounded in Indians and buffalo. In 1859 came Mr. Gillian, a widower, bringing one son and three daughters. The mother of the girls, his second wife, was part Cherokee Indian. All these have gone to their reward, except possibly one daughter. In 1862 came the Atkison brothers, Benjamin, now living

in Chautauqua Springs, Samuel, living now at Independence, and Stephen, dead. About the same time came the Kelly brothers, Jim, the oldest, is now in an old soldiers' home in California. Abe Kelly is deceased. Charley's whereabouts are unknown. John Kelly was drowned in 1867 while swimming the Whitewater river about four miles south of Whitewater City. In 1866 came John Folk. In the spring of 1868 Reuben Moore, father of the writer, came to the county, buying for one hundred dollars a quarter section of homestead land on the Whitewater and on which stood down by the creek a little log house. That summer and fall buffalo were hunted for winter meat out near the present location of Wichita. Sometimes a deer, or an antelope and often a wild turkey, was killed. Failing these, a fat raccoon or opossum would answer for a roast and always there were prairie chickens, thousands of them, and I have counted nineteen antelope in one bunch on the divide between the Whitewater and the West Branch.

In 1870 the Whitewater overflowed its banks. We left the little log cabin about ten o'clock one night and the next morning the water was half way to its roof. Then father decided it was time to build on higher ground. Lumber was brought from Emporia, and for the times, a very fine house was built, it being one and one-half stories high. The following summer the young people decided that a dance, then the popular amusement, must be given at the house. The time arrived, and most of the day it rained, but a large crowd gathered notwithstanding, again it rained, it rained until daylight and until daylight we danced. At day-break a trip was made to the creek. It was bank full. As nearly all the guests must cross the creek to get to their home, all returned to the house. The following night the dance was continued and all stayed another night. The girls occupied the upstairs and the boys the downstairs. The next morning the creek was still nearly bank full. A little lumber having been left from the building a canoe was made with which the girls were to be taken across the creek. Reuben Moore and his brother, Carl, took their places in the boat and started off a high bank. When they had gone about two hundred yards, a swift current was encountered, the boat capsized and the boys had a struggle to swim back to shore. In this catastrophe Reuben lost his pocket book and fifteen dollars. That night the tired crowd retired about midnight, but some of the boys wakening later, called the fiddler, the music began at "Balance all," down came the girls and another round was had. This was always called the "protracted dance."

Other early settlers of Murdock township are: Edwin Hall, 1868, deceased; William Paul, 1869, deceased, 1873; Leonard Shafer, 1868. Old Mr. Dorsey and family, Mr. Blankenship, son-in-law of Dorsey and Charles Mornhenwig, all came in 1869. John Miller, Henry Dohren, Thomas Ohlsen, Dave Kehl, Albert and Charley Diemart, Robert Taylor, Joseph Claypool, Henry Terbush and the Goodales all came in 1870. A. L. Drake, Isaac Curtin, Jim Shibles, 1871; Bill Spencer and Barney

Doyle, 1871; William McCraner, who came in 1870, locating in Milton township, just outside of Murdock, was the first postmaster of the Caribon postoffice. Wm. McCraner, Jr. and myself made many a boast of how much prairie we could "break" with four or five yoke of oxen.

In the winter of 1869 a little school house was built by the people of the township. This was a little log house and like most of the other log houses, had a floor made of logs which had been split in the middle, and dressed a little with an ax. These were called puncheon floors. The seats were of the same material, having holes bored in with an auger and round pins or sticks driven in for legs. The writing desks were made in the same fashion, the pins being driven into the wall. O. W. Belt was the first teacher, a three months summer term. Charles Noe, now of Leon, was the teacher the next term. Some of us will always remember Charley as 'twas from him we received our schooling.

In the spring of 1868 an Indian scare took all of us to El Dorado, where we stayed two or three days and returned to our homes. Bill Avery said of this occasion, that when he had gotten back home everything seemed so peaceful and quiet he was ashamed to look his cows in the face.

Rev. Isaac Mooney, "Father Mooney," as we always called him, for he was certainly a gospel father to us all, was the first man to preach in the vicinity. He rode from Towanda on horseback. Each Sunday, without fail, he came. Very few to attend at the start, no one to help with the singing. Some would come to remain on the outside, these being especially the cowboys, their revolvers buckled around them and seemingly more afraid of the preacher than of a herd of buffalo. But in time all finally went inside. Father Mooney continued coming until a larger and better school house was built, and finally a strong church was organized. He was a faithful servant of the Lord and his influence for good is still felt in this community today.

In my time here I have heard young men from the East say they would not stay if given the whole county. I have heard the early settlers say the land would be stock range forever, and time spent in trying to farm these prairies was wasted. But these mistaken opinions are evidenced by the prosperous farmers and fertile farms of this valley. Often my mind goes back to the '60's when everyone was a friend, when no selfishness was among us, and those seem the best days of my life.

#### PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

By J. F. Glendenning.

Pleasant township was organized March 11, 1873, out of the territory known as township twenty-eight, range three. Election ordered held at the usual time of holding election and voting place to be at the residence of Thomas McKnight. The following town-

ship officers were elected: A. H. Dunlap, trustee; J. E. Milton, treasurer; E. J. Pyle, clerk; N. W. Runnells and H. G. Russell, justices of the peace; James Stroup and Sam Allen, constables.

In July, 1871, the writer, with another young man by the name of Byron McKinney, conceived the idea of adventure; so we thought we would take Horace Greeley's advice, "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country," so we took the prairie schooner for Kansas.

Traveling at our leisure and enjoying life to its fullest extent (as we then thought) for we were having a picnic every day until we arrived at a little town by the name of Bazaar, in Chase county, Kansas. Bazaar was located on a creek called Rock Creek which was at flood tide when we arrived there, so we did not have a picnic but a regular, or irregular, camp meeting. The camp ground was about all occupied by fifteen or twenty other wagons, emigrants and freighters. So we located in the suburbs of Schooner City for about three days or till the water ran down so we could resume our journey, and as we wanted to be fully satisfied before locating we travelled over several counties, including Butler, Sedgwick, Sumner, Cowley, Willson, Howard and Greenwood; and not finding any place as enchanting as Butler county, so we again pulled for Butler and feeling sure we had found the promised land and as we were a little particular in our selection of a place for a home and wanting a garden spot of that most beautiful county we located in Pleasant township. The name is significant of the township and also of the early settlers of the township as they were kindly, neighborly, energetic and unsophisticated and as memory is a little treacherous after a lapse of forty-five years, I will perhaps not be able to give many of the things that transpired or the names of many of the people, which I regret very seriously.

The first man we met in Pleasant was Henry Freeman, and as we camped by a little creek for dinner and also joining Mr. Freeman's corn field, he perhaps thought we would want some corn to feed our horses, so he came down to our camp and sure we did buy a bushel of corn from him for one quarter of a dollar. Mr. Freeman was a Union soldier during the Civil war (if there is anything as civil war) and was also a man of Roosevelt type, as he reared a family of ten children who are all doing well. One of the boys, Prof. Harvey Freeman, is holding a good position in the Commercial College in Wichita, Kansas. And one of the girls, Miss Lizzy Freeman, was married to Byron McKinney. She was a splendid wife to Mr. McKinney and sure he was one of the best men I ever knew, as we lived on adjoining farms for twenty years. I knew him to be a true friend. He departed this life about ten years ago and his widow lives in Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Freeman has gone, as most of the old settlers have; he died a few years ago.

After looking over the country that afternoon we camped for the night at Mr. Lane's, father of George Lane, ex-clerk of the district Court of Butler county. George is now a resident of Los Angeles, California.

One daughter, Mrs. Alice Baker, lives in Bruno township, Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Lane are both dead and gone to try the realities of that happy home that awaits the just and upright in heart. The next man we met was Ephraim Yeager, who had located some six weeks earlier and had just built a nice frame house to shelter his wife and two baby girls from the storms that might come; but there was one storm came that nothing combustible has ever yet withstood. That was the prairie fire which burned his house with all its contents and about three hundred dollars in cash. That fire occurred about the time (October 7, 8, and 9,) of the great Chicago fire, but this fire started from other cause than the cow kicking the lamp over, but it surely devastated the country, burning houses, stables, cows, horses, wagons, hay, etc. It did not burn any barns, buggies, or fine carriages; as they were at that time immune to fire in that part of Kansas. Mr. Yeager was an old Indian fighter in Oregon and California and also a veteran of the Union army. Mr. and Mrs. Yeager are both dead, leaving a nice interesting family of six children, most of whom live on or near the old homestead. I think it was in this fire that a man by the name of Herod lost his life. He was on his way to his claim when overtaken by the fire. His clothes were almost burned off him but he managed to reach Eight Mile Creek, near where Mr. Jones, the father of Marion Jones, lived—they took care of him the best they could but he died four days later. He was a school teacher.

In order to show you the tenacity that possessed the early settlers, I will relate what came under our observation on our first trip over the township. As we approached the little creek of Eight Mile we discovered an open shd, and wishing to cross the creek and get over to the shed, were barred by the marshy ground, so one of us walked over and there found a young man (a bachelor, of course) lying there with a broken leg, and with not a murmur of complaint and in asking and insisting that we should do something for him, he said that Dr. Hill had been there and reduced the fracture and some of his near neighbors were caring for him; I believe his name was Osborn.

It is impossible at this writing to give all the early settlers' names as only those that I was best acquainted with do I remember. I hope no one will feel slighted or offended if they fail to see their names here, for I would not wound the feelings of one of those brave hearts that endured the hardships and suffered the privations of frontier life.

There was the very interesting family of A. H. Dunlap, and as they were all musicians they organized an orchestra and gave us splendid music at our literary society at Old Harmony school house, which was destroyed by cyclone on the last day of March, 1892. L. S. Dunlap was trustee of the township for several years and surely made a splendid officer. Rev. A. H. and Mrs. Dunlap have long since departed this life and we hope and trust they occupy mansions above. And there was John Dunlap and his very estimable wife, who took a prominent part in things to make a better community.

There on the banks of the beautiful stream of Four Mile Creek resided the families of Nathan Hide and the Russells. The Russells girls were some of Butler county's best teachers. There also lived John Q. Chase who was trustee for several years and John Kibby, the great cattle king of the township.

I thought I had got so far from home that I would not see any one that I had known but I had just got located and passing a house or rather a hay shed I met a man that had freighted for us in Iowa and I said "Hello, Mr. Snook," and he looked at me in great surprise, and said, "It's Frank." I said "Yes, but I am surprised to see you here;" he said that he could not make a living on those poor hills north, so he had to move and he said, "By golly, I've found the garden spot of earth," and he also believed in that command in the Scripture to Adam and Eve, "Multiply and replenish the earth." Mr. and Mrs. Snook are long since dead, and their ten children are scattered.

The name that will perhaps live longer in the minds and hearts of the good people of Pleasant township is Theodore McKnight, as he was always noted for his good words and works; and as he was left to travel the road toward the setting sun alone, he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Nathan Chance of Augusta, one of the estimable ladies and strong characters for purity and uprightness of Augusta. One of his sons, Thomas McKnight, was one of the rustlers of Pleasant township and a veteran soldier of the Union army, with his energy and indomitable will, succeeded in building a fine home. W. A. McKnight, another son, was sure one of the strong men of the township and was as faithful a friend as it ever was my pleasure to meet. If any one had told me that W. A. McKnight had done a mean act, I would not have believed it. His daughter, Ola, was married to Will Cummings, Jr., who had made a success in life and by his uprightness of character has won the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

Another one of the substantial citizens was Joe Hall, and Mrs. Hall was his equal in stability of character, for they are sure as true as steel and as faithful in performing their life work as the Lord wanted them to be. Joe was a veteran in the Union army and was wounded in battle. They are spending their declining years in a nice home in Rose Hill; and we hope and trust that their lives will be fraught with all the joy and happiness that is man's lot to receive here on earth. T. F. Hall was another of the substantial citizens and his wife, a very estimable lady, was the daughter of Captain Webb, and sister of U. S. Webb, now attorney general of California.

There was the Webb Reynolds family who were always ready to help in every movement for the bettering of the community in which they lived and I believe they really enjoyed frontier life, as they seemed so cheerful and happy at all times. The Matt Skinner family was numbered with our dearest friends who helped make Pleasant township and also Butler county, as Mrs. Skinner was one of Butler's best school

teachers. The William Cummings family were our near neighbors and dear friends and as they believed in preparedness they raised a family of two girls and seven boys, two of whom are now in the front ranks fighting for King Emmanuel. And there was the William Simmons family who enjoyed in building a nice home of their own in the land of peace and quiet. And there was another man that was true to the principles of democracy and that was the dear old boy, Cale John, one of my substantial friends. There are many others, that I would like to tell you of their good qualities and true friendship, but I must bring this to a close by mentioning a few names of the early settlers. There were the Billows, Prays, Pyles, Dinnets and Johnstons, and a man by the name of Marion Franklin who located in what is now Pleasant township in 1869.

I haven't told any funny stores as I thought I would, for when my mind was carried back to those happy days and then down to the present time, it rather saddens my heart. I don't like to live too much in the past, as they say when a person begins to live in the past, he is getting old and as I expect to stay young for years I will try to live in the present and enjoy this life with a glad heart and look to the future for a happy home where there will be no more good-byes said, and we will never grow old. The names given here and many more are among the men and women that faced the trials of frontier life and made the desert bloom as the rose. The dark day of the grasshopper raid I shall leave for a more able writer to describe.

Wishing you all a happy life here and a happier future, I bid you good-bye. I am your friend.

#### PLUM GROVE TOWNSHIP.

By C. V. Cain.

After the passing of forty-six years, that being the time I came to the township, it will be little wonder if many happenings of importance at that time have not gone from my memory, but to write up the sayings and doings of these pioneers, one must be in a reminiscent mood to make it of interest to any, but those that had part and parcel at that time, and also this little sketch must include the names of many who were residents of other parts of the county outside of Plum Grove. These outsiders came into our social life, as well as the commercial or business life of the community.

The largest immigration to this part of Kansas was in 1870. The newcomers that year and 1871 had their time all taken up with preparing a place to live, without devoting their time to sociability. Consequently, it was in 1872 before they began to move around and get acquainted with their neighbors, which they did by attending literary societies at the different school houses and one in particular at the Eaton school in Milton township which was largely attended by George, Howard and



Arthur Neiman, Ed Eaton, W. J. McFrancis, E. B. Brainard, John and Mrs. Horner, C. P. Strong, and so many others from eight to ten miles away their names I do not now recall. Their debates were certainly interesting and there was always an editor and a paper that was full of jokes at the expense of the attendants, but I recall but one such; C. P. Strong had unusually large ears. One of the papers had this little squib: "If all flesh is grass, what a pile of hay Strong's ears ought to make." Of course it brought down the house. Not only the Eaton school house but the Wilcox school house in Clifford held their debates and spelling schools. Settlers in those days went a long distance to church and Sunday school; among the church and Sunday school workers were Daniel M. Elder, Jacob Holderman, Joseph B. Morton, Mrs. L. B. Cain, Mrs. I. Howe and many others.

Another line of amusement that was popular with the early settlers were the "surprise parties." They would gather at some neighbor's, and a neighbor was anyone living within fifteen miles. Everyone was expected to bring a basket of provisions, and sometimes in these baskets there would be some huge sell in the shape of sawdust pie, cake seasoned with salt in place of sugar, coffee spiced up with pepper. One night there was a large, nice looking cake brought in which there was said to be a ring. When it was cut and divided around a young lady had the piece with a small harness ring. There were several good singers in the country and they formed a singing class, and there were some very fine singers. M. S. Eddy and brother-in-law, Will Power, were as fine bass and tenor as you could find anywhere. The Ketchum brothers, Ed and Hoyt, were also good. Mrs. W. H. Randall was generally the musician that accompanied. Prof. F. C. Buck, of Augusta, often attended the meetings of the musical crowd in their vicinity.

I have omitted mentioning some of the early settlers in the township who did not secure and occupy homesteads. Among the first was Weightman F. Joseph and four sons, William I., James, Moses N. and Sidney S. The father came in 1871, also William I., and bought a large tract of the best land in the Whitewater valley. They were among the most reliable and substantial citizens of this township and their children are following in the footsteps of their fathers. The Josephs were from West Virginia. M. D. L. Kimberlin also came in 1871 from Kentucky. He bought land on the east branch of the Whitewater and improved it and made a home for four boys and that many girls, and three of his sons are still on the home place and on land they have since bought. A history of the early settlers of Plum Grove would not be complete without special mention of Mrs. Charles Coppins. She filled the place of nurse for any and all of the sick in this section. No night was so dark or the weather too hot or too cold or distance too great that Mrs. Coppins would not go to the relief of those that were sick and in distress. It was the same whether the sick lived in a dugout or in the best house in the land, oftentimes going to El Dorado to care for the

sick. The nearest doctors at that time was one living near the north line of the county and one at El Dorado. I have known Dr. McKenzie to leave El Dorado, come to my house, and from there drive to Cole Creek and on to the head of Walnut and on around to El Dorado, making a circuit of nearly one hundred miles in one drive. The people, in this like all newly settled countries, were afflicted with chills and fever. There was not much typhoid, but occasionally a case of it.

In those days there were no buggies or carriages in the country. In the towns the livery stables kept both, but I only knew of one buggy and one spring wagon in all the northwest Butler county. Before 1870, the settlers have told, there was no money in circulation, and in talking with one of the old pioneers who came in 1857, he said coon skins, meening furs, and buffalo hides and tallow were legal tender. The men would go on a buffalo hunt in the fall when the buffalo were fat and kill and skin and save the tallow until a wagon load was saved, and then go to Leavenworth or Westport, Missouri, and trade it for supplies for the family. At that time these times were the nearest places to market their furs, etc. In 1870 the nearest railroad point was Emporia, which was sixty-five miles from Plum Grove. The roads at that time were located across the prairies in every direction; to get any place that you wanted to go, you would have to know the direction from where you were and follow the road leading in that direction, as there were no guide boards and you were not liable to meet any person that could direct you.

About the year 1876, there were two Mennonite boys that had been to El Dorado. They were twins, about twenty years old, and their name was Dick. They lived near where Elbing now is. On their way home there was a big storm coming up from the north. The lightning struck the prairie grass right near and set it on fire. It scared the boys so much that they drove to my house and wanted to stay all night. In those days a traveler was never turned away. They stayed, but the rain did not reach my house; the cloud rained out on the head of Whitewater. In the morning they hitched up and started from my place to their home. When they drove into the ford on the Whitewater they did not think of the creek being up and the team, wagon and all were washed down the stream and the boys were drowned. The body of one was found a few rods below the ford, the other about a half mile below.

In the early days there were people who came to this section who afterward were prominent and widely known. I will recall one, Fred Remington, who became a great painter and cartoonist, so much so that he gained a national reputation for his paintings of cowboy, Indian and scenes of the Wild and Wooley West. They were admired by everyone who was acquainted with these characters, for they were so life-like and natural. This sketch would be incomplete without mentioning the early day preachers. Of the Presbyterians there were Rev. Stryker, of El Dorado; Rev. E. J. Stewart, of Fairmount; Rev. A. H. Lackey,

of Peabody; the Campbellites, Rev. I. Mooney, of Towanda; Rev. Kinney, of Fairview, and Rev. I. J. Curtis, of Murdock. The Methodists were represented by Rev. F. H. Martin, of West Branch of Whitewater, and Rev. S. L. Roberts, of Clifford.

The women who came to this country in the early settlement certainly deserve more than a passing mention in this history of Butler county, more especially those who came in the sixties and before. Settlers at that time were very scattering. Sometimes it would be a distance of four miles or more to the nearest neighbor. The men of the families sometimes would go away for supplies and be away for two or three weeks before they could return. At that time bands of Indians were occasionally roaming over the prairies and wherever there was a house they were sure to visit. Stop and think now of the feelings of a woman alone, or perhaps with her little children, with no white person within miles to come to her rescue if those Indians were disposed to be treacherous and cruel. I have in mind now two of those pioneer women, Mrs. W. H. Avery, who lived at least four miles from the nearest neighbor, and Mrs. Amos Adams. Their lives during those times were certainly anything but pleasant.

I must mention the pioneer school teachers, for what would a civilized settlement be without them? I recall the names of two, Jane Wentworth and Fannie Hull Wilson. Miss Wentworth taught school in different places in the county during the sixties, at El Dorado, on the west branch of Walnut and other places. Fannie Hull Wilson taught many different schools in the county. For several years she taught the Blue Mound school, and I venture to say there is not a county school in the county graduated as many, that after became school teachers, as that school. All four of the children in the Lobdell family were teachers, Charles, Fred, Adda and Myrtle, and they were successful teachers with no other preparation than the district school that Mrs. Wilson taught. Besides the Lobdells, there were two from the Ashenfelter family and the three Boersnia sisters and others that I do not now remember.

Early Settlement.—What is now Plum Grove township received its first settlers in the spring of 1857, when a colony of people from Douglass county, Kansas, settled along the Whitewater River at the ford on the old California Trail, which started at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and united with the Santa Fe Trail near Hutchinson. This colony surveyed and platted a town which they called Whitewater City and many of the stakes were still in the ground in the spring of 1870. They built several houses, mostly of logs, which were afterwards torn down and moved to the claims of the later settlers along the Whitewater and its tributaries, as all the original settlers left during the year of the great drought, which was in 1860. The first man to make a permanent settlement in the township was Joseph H. Adams, who originally came from Illinois and located on the Whitewater, one mile southwest of the

present city of Potwin, in the spring of 1860, and lived there until fall, when he moved to Whitewater City, living there until the next spring, when he moved to the northeast quarter of section 7, where he lived until his death in October, 1875. Mr. Adams' wife died in 1868, and he was again married to Mrs. Margaret Pitzer, of Chase county, Kansas. After the death of Mr. Adams, Mrs. Adams was married to M. S. Bond in 1879. In 1911 Mrs. Bond died. Mr. Adams had three sons, one of whom, J. C. Adams, homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 19, Plum Grove township, and he is still the owner of it, but his home is now in Major, Oklahoma, and I am indebted to Mr. J. C. Adams for nearly all of the early history of Plum Grove township. Another of J. H. Adams' sons is J. A. Adams, who was born in Plum Grove township in 1874, and is living on his father's original homestead, of which he is the owner of 120 acres, having bought out the Adams and Pitzer heirs. There were several settlers who came in the sixties. Mr. Adams' daughter, Harriet, was the wife of Charles Lyon, who homesteaded the quarter section joining Mr. Adams on the east. Mr. Lyon went on a buffalo hunt and was taken sick and died about 1862 on Cow Creek, a few miles southwest of Wichita. Mrs. Lyon afterwards married John R. Wentworth, who made final proof on the Lyon homestead. Stephen Wentworth, father of John R., came from Chase county, Kansas, and settled on an adjoining quarter and himself and wife lived there until their death. Sam Karner was a squatter on a claim upon which he did not remain long, and J. L. Green came and occupied it. Henry Comstock moved in and settled on Henry Creek, after whom the creek was named. Mr. Comstock was from Illinois and was a Civil War veteran. James Jones lived on a claim in the south part of the township. Amos Adams and wife, Nancy, cousins of J. H. Adams, and Mr. Adams, a Civil War veteran, came in 1866 and homesteaded on the northwest of section 30, living there until his death in April, 1904. Amos Adams and son, Hon. J. B. Adams, who for several years has occupied a prominent position in Butler county's political and financial matters, was born in Plum Grove township on the old homestead.

While Plum Grove township had quite a number of settlers before 1870, it in common with all of Butler county received its great influx of settlers and homesteaders in 1870 and 1871. January 1, 1870, there were yet forty quarter-sections of Government land open for homesteading and which was entered by homesteaders filing before the last of 1871. Charles Coppins placed his homestead entry on the southwest quarter of section 26 in the spring of 1871, which was the last vacant Government land in Plum Grove township. There were two sections of vacant school land in the township, one of which was settled in 1870 by C. V. Cain and W. J. Johnson. Of the original homesteaders but one is now living on his claim taken in 1870, John H. Poffinbarger, a Civil War veteran. His homestead was the southwest quarter of section 14. Since then he has purchased 320 acres more joining his origi-

nal claim. Mrs. Mariah Odor is living on a part of her husband's homestead in section 28. On the J. H. Adams land lives one son, J. A. Adams, and a step-son, C. C. Pitzer. The heirs of Amos Adams still own the land their father homesteaded in 1866. Mrs. Adams died in El Dorado, September 9, 1914.

Beginning at the northeast corner of Plum Grove township, I will name the homesteaders with the exception of those already mentioned: Section 2 had M. S. Eddy, his brother-in-law, Charles Johnson, James Turner and Thomas Commons. Section 4 had Mrs. Cole and one other whose name I cannot recall. Section 6 had William Dennis. On Section 6 lived Ben Ogden and he died there about 1875. Section 12 was occupied by William Dornbus, William Powers, George Mann, who was killed there in blasting rock out of a well; also Henry Brown. On the southeast quarter of section 14 the owner was Frank Troxell, who died in the fall of 1872 with typhoid fever, at the house of Chas. Cobbins. John H. Poffinbarger, William Montgomery and Frank Jones were the other settlers on section 14. On section 20 was Nathan Duncan, who secured the relinquishment of the southeast quarter from the original homesteader, whose name I do not remember. Section 22 was originally homesteaded by Milton Bradley, James Stuart, Lida Poffinbarger and Sam Crow. Sam was one of the most successful deer hunters of this whole country; with his long-barreled rifle he killed a great many, and at that time deer and antelope were very numerous on these prairies. Section 24 was settled by John Cave and ——— Poe and two others whose names I cannot recall. Section 26 had James Ledbetter, an old soldier, Charles Coppins, Jesse Smith and one other. Jesse Smith and Charles Coppins are both in their graves, but their homesteads are still owned by their widows, both of whom live in Wichita. Section 28 was settled by Robert G. DeYarman, Squire Smith, John H. Odor and William Watkins. Section 30 was owned by Amos Adams and James Jones. Section 32 was homesteaded by Mrs. Cornelious, her son, Joe Cornelious, and Allen and Henry Atrible. The only of these four now living that I know of is Joe Cornelious, in Harper county. On section 34 I can recall but one of the original claimants, Silas Hall, who died several years ago. His widow still owns the homestead and is living in Wichita.

In Plum Grove township all the odd numbered sections, when not previously claimed, were included in the Santa Fe Land Grant. Quite a large amount of the best land along the streams was claimed by Lawrence and Potwin, who located it with railroad and agricultural college script.

The different railroads were projected through the township. The first one, called Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska, came in the north line of the county and followed down the Whitewater on the west side to Augusta. County bonds were voted to aid in building it, the only bonds ever voted by Butler county for the aid of a railroad. I do not remem-

ber the year. The second project was from Fort Smith, Arkansas, but neither of those were ever more than paper roads. In 1884 the El Dorado, Newton & McPherson was under consideration, and the company asked the township to vote bonds and take \$20,000.00 stock in the road, which was done, the township receiving stock certificates for their bonds. The road was built in 1885, and the town of Potwin was laid out and named after C. W. Potwin, who owned the land where the town was located. In a few years after the road went into the hands of a receiver and was sold to satisfy a mortgage, and the township lost their stock.

The first postoffice in the township was Plum Grove, located at John R. Wentworth's, and he was the first postmaster and the office was named for a thicket of plum bushes near the Wentworth house. The office was established in the fall of 1871 and was supplied with mail from Towanda, at first once a week, and afterwards two mails a week. In 1872 Drake & Lobdell erected a building and put in a stock of general merchandise, which was the first store in the township. Later a Mr. Stewart opened another store. After the railroad bonds were voted and a prospect for a road seemed quite certain, the stores and post office were moved over on the proposed line of the road. A mail route was established from Peabody to Holden, in Milton township, and to Plum Grove, and Oliver P. Brumback carried the mail twice a week, walking and carrying it on his back. Some later the route was changed to run from Newton to El Dorado, and another postoffice was established in the township at the house of W. H. Randall. Office was named Ayr and Mrs. Randall was appointed postmaster. When the town of Potwin was started, the office was moved there and the name changed to Potwin. The new town of Plum Grove on the west side of the Whitewater had two general stores, a drug store and a blacksmith shop. Stark M. Spencer was one of the merchants, M. C. Snorf the other. Dr. I. V. Davis had the drug store and practiced medicine, and W. W. Kemper had a blacksmith shop. A school house was built and the prospect was good for a nice little country town. In 1885, when the railroad was finished, Plum Grove was divided, part going to the town of Brainers and a part to Potwin. I believe the first school house built in the township was on the hill between the Whitewater and Diamond Creek and was known as the Plum Grove school house and district. It was built in 1872 and soon after there was a Sunday school organized, and I believe the first superintendent was Jacob Holderman. There were several living in this neighborhood who in times past had been members of the Presbyterian church. Rev. E. J. Stewart, a Presbyterian minister, moved into the community and a church was organized and regular services were held for quite a long time, and the settlers came for a long distance to preaching. The Methodists had an appointment which was supplied by the El Dorado circuit and in June, 1871, S. C. Roberts was assigned to that charge,

but as he did not suit some of the leaders in th El Dorado church, they did not want him. He drove out to Plum Grove and put up at my house, reaching there about 6 o'clock in the evening of June 16, 1871. As we came away from the stable there was a heavy black cloud coming up from the northwest. We had just got into the house when the storm came with a terrific wind and hail knocking the windows all out and destroying what little crops we had. That was the storm that destroyed so many buildings in El Dorado and with some loss of life.

In the spring of 1871, Daniel M. Elder bought a saw mill at El Dorado and moved it to Plum Grove and sawed a large amount of lumber, for at that time there were a great number of large trees all along the streams and the lumber was what the settlers needed in building houses and stables. Mr. Elder, after sawing all the timber that was brought to him at Plum Grove, moved his mill farther down the Whitewater.

The first death in the township was George Adams, son of J. H. Adams; who died in 1864, aged twenty-three years. The first birth in the township was Charles Stewart, born in 1860 and died the same year. Eliza Jane Lyon was born December 20, 1860, and is now living in El Dorado, the wife of W. G. Lyon. The first wedding that we have any account of was John C. Adams and Nancy M. Pitzer, in the year 1871.

#### PROSPECT TOWNSHIP.

This township was organized April 1, 1872, out of the territory comprising township 26, range 6, and an election ordered held at the residence of William Shepherd, southwest corner of section 14, on April 20, 1872. The following officers were elected: S. White, trustee; William Sample, treasurer; S. D. Andrews, clerk; V. M. Pruden and R. P. Edington, justices of the peace; Napoleon Chrisham and J. B. Sherman, constables.

The boundaries of this township were afterwards changed, presumably for the purpose of permitting the citizens thereof to assist El Dorado in procuring the F. E. & W. V. railroad, giving the township one mile of said road. The township now contains, in addition to the original territory, a strip of land three miles wide and sixteen miles long. It also has about seven miles of the Missouri Pacific railway, and the thriving little town of Pontiac, containing depot, stock yards, switching facilities, also a general store by Siegrist Brothers, blacksmith shop and other lines of business represented, all doing a good business. It is also one of the principal shipping points for hay in the county. The township is well watered and the soil adapted to all kinds of agriculture and stock raising.

Prospect township has within its borders one of the principal industrial and commercial enterprises in the county, the stone quarry and crusher, owned and operated by R. E. Frazier, of El Dorado. This in-

stitution furnishes employment for from fifty to one hundred and fifty people during each month of the year. Immense quantities of building stone, ballast and screenings are shipped out of this quarry daily. The estate of the late Charles Parker owns and operates a like institution adjoining the above on its east, but upon a somewhat smaller scale.

The first patent under the homestead laws was issued September 30, 1869, to Sarah C. Saxby for the heirs of ————— Saxby, deceased, on land in sections 4 and 5. Prior to this time Amos A. Lawrance had issued script or land warrants on about 2,100 acres in 18655.

Among the early homesteaders were; William Crimble, who homesteaded the present county farm; H. K. and James Johnson, Abe Muselman, Elias Hinkle, Cornelious Coble, I. A. Moulton, J. J. Donnelly, Charles Eckel, John S. Friend, Frank Cour, J. B. Sherman and also Phineas Hathaway, a gentleman of the old school and a Universalist preacher, fond of good living, and enjoyed a joke or a roast on himself or anyone else. It is told of him that while on a shopping expedition in El Dorado, he called at a grocery and while purchasing some sugar one of the parties, who, by the way, was a good church member, said to him: "Well, Brother F., I presume you still believe in literal hell fire and eternal damnation, do you?" "Yes, sir; yes," replied Brother F. "I do." "Well," said Phineas, "I am glad of it, I am glad you do; it is the only thing in the world that makes you give sixteen ounces for a pound."

Very few, if any, of the original homesteaders now own or reside upon their homesteads. Among the early settlers were George C. Haver, Henry Martin, Beamis Brothers, J. E. McCully, John Teter, William Bailey and many others.



## CHAPTER XII.

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### TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND TOWNS.

(Continued.)

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP—ROCK CREEK TOWNSHIP—ROSALIA TOWNSHIP—  
SPRING TOWNSHIP.

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#### RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

By L. D. Himebaugh.

Richland township is bounded on the north by Pleasant township, on the east by Douglass township, on the south by Cowley county, on the west by Sedgwick county, situated in the center of a prosperous and productive area known as the Big Four Counties of Kansas.

Pioneer Period.—The pioneer period in the writer's view and experience terminated proper with the grasshopper plague and devastation of 1874. What can be said of events and endurance of settlers in one section or township of this domain (unequalled in a like area today within the bounds of Kansas) will apply in a great measure to all parts of the territory. The first white settlement within the bounds of what is now known as Richland township was made on Eight Mile Creek in the summer of 1868 by John Steock, James Olmstead and Harve Henderson. This was the year of the Indian depredation to the extent of the killing of Mr. Dunn and his associate about three-fourths of a mile southwest of the Olmstead mill, built in 1872 and later known as Dunn's mill. This had a tendency to confine settlement to near town (or rather town site) of Douglass for that summer; but the following year the valley of Eight Mile was claimed as far as the north line of the township, and cabins were erected by A. Liddle, H. Kellems, V. Love, M. G. Jones and Dick Reed. In the early spring of 1870 the writer laid claim to a share of this beautiful domain, locating on the south line of the township, which was then bounded on the south by Indian Territory. No soldiers patrolled the line and such a person as a "sooner" was not known. No person was a trespasser; anywhere he wished to go he had only to take his chances on meeting with half-civilized or hostile Indians or being visited by that class of people in sheep's clothing, who made a business of borrowing horses at night and never returning them. It was a necessary custom with settlers that summer to

bring all work stock from the lariat and tie them to a wagon or near a tent or shanty before retiring for the night. But over in Douglass township in November of that year they began tying up suspicious men at the rate of eight per month, which had a telling effect in keeping horses from straying off at night. In July of this year all the Indian land to the south side of the State was treated for and surveyed the following winter.

This started a flow of immigration into this part of the State and Richland got her share for several years, when the grasshopper invasion and devastation of 1874 caused a lull in this line. Not only this, but many settlers left the township and some the State to spend the winter with wives' folks and other kindred. While the grasshopper invasion of this year came without warning in August, yet one month previous, July 26, the settlers of south Butler and north Cowley received a mid-night warning that later proved to be false, but not until nearly every settler from the Arkansas River east to Walnut had deserted their homes in haste. Some children were loaded into wagons in their night garments with such supplies as were at hand and off they went, fleeing as they thought from a band of hostile Indians reported to have burned Belle Plain and coming east, killing and scalping every woman and child enroute.

The Cheyenne and Osage Indians being a little on the warpath that year as to tribal claims, afforded some grounds for the belief of the report that was started by two parties who were making a night ride east to unknown parts, and for a sensational motive called at a farm house and reported that a band of Indians was slaughtering the settlers just west of the river and they were fleeing from them. They reported the same at every house they passed, not giving any explanation only that they saw the Indians and Belle Plain was in flames. A prairie fire in that direction helped to give credence to their report. They soon had some follows, and they, feeling an interest in the safety of their neighbors, the tidings spread and the thoughts of defending wife and little ones at home prompted many to join the samped for a more numerous and defensive stronghold. The writer was routed out by a lad, who with his parents was several miles from home, just as the first ray of morning light was visible in the eastern horizon. He related his Indian story, and requested him to get a gun and join them about eighty rods west at the house of Mr. Broughton. After getting on boots and starting a fire, we sauntered out to learn the cause for all this, and found that the boy was not trying to play a joke on a lone bachelor. After consoling myself with the thought that no Indians were coming our way, I returned, got breakfast, did the morning chores, then saddled my horse and galloped south a mile to learn how the widow Daniels and her large family were feeling over this Indian scare report. To my surprise all were gone save the old gray mare that was grazing leisurely about the yard. The kitchen door was open

and sugar, flour and other supplies were scattered about the floor. Not seeing any marks of Indian depredations or moccasin footprints, we at once concluded that they, too, had got up earlier than usual and hastened away to save their scalps. On returning home we learned that Fight Mile and Walnut woods were full of men, women and children, and on half rations and ammunition, caused by their hasty exit from home. Sam Parker and several others went out west to spy out the situation, returning soon after the noon hour with the report that no Indians were in it at all. The whole thing was a sham and a false report. This was tidings of great joy, and all returned to their homes



CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL, ROSE HILL, KANS.

swearing vengeance against the ones who originated the stampede. It was later reported that those two fellows never stopped till they struck the blackjacks in Missouri.

The winter of 1874-1875 is known and remembered as the "aid winter," not alone for the amount of aid the remaining settlers of the township received in the full sense of the emergency, but the style of supplies sent by the kind, sympathetic people of other States for gratuitous distribution among the grasshopper sufferers of Kansas. Augusta being the county central supply headquarters, everything was sent there, and every two weeks it was appropriated to the different township committees and brought by one of them or their order for final distribution.

The aid distributing point for this township was at the home of Deacon Harris, one-half mile west of the center of the township. Here nearly all the Richlanders met on the first and third Saturday afternoons of each month, more to see and associate together than to receive. The style of wearing apparel placed on exhibition for claimants and distribution caused great amusement and was more varied than their wardrobe had ever contained and might have put even the Indians to flight. At the present day it would be styled a rummage sale. They were the cast-off garments of forty years ago or more, gathered from attics "way down East," such as old Shaker and pasteboard bonnets, stove pipe hat with ventilators in the top, homespun dress skirts, striped threadbare shawls, cutaway swallow tail coats, old barn door pants, etc. The supplies for the inner man were more fitting and more sought for, which consisted of corn meal, flour, sugar, beans and occasionally bacon and dried fruit. At one time by mistake a barrel of coffee was sent instead of a barrel of beans. It was not distributed, the committee saying that it came by mistake and would be returned and corrected. It was returned to the back room and was lost in the hands of the committee. The writer doesn't vouch for the accuracy of this saying, not being a beneficiary, but was several times a member of said distributing committee, which was revised in part or whole each month. This gratuitous distribution ceased long before grass started, but the people and stock went through the winter in fair working trim. Prominent among those who survived this period and are still residents of the township are Dick Reed, James McCluggage, L. M. Williams, Nathan Davis, R. L. Hodgkin, J. H. Harris, A. J. Cramer and a few others. Since the writer changed his residence from the farm to Wichita, the first named of this list is now the only resident of the township still residing on the claims settled on in the early spring of 1870. The closing of this period is generally considered to have been a "blessing in disguise." The continued drought of 1874 had doomed most of the crops when the grasshopper invasion of August came and consumed what little there was left save a few small fields of early planting on the streams, so the grasshopper was the leading issue of destruction. Meetings were called at various places and the situation discussed; expense funds were raised and a soliciting agent was sent back East to his old home and friends with circulars and even official affidavits of the horrible state of the grasshopper devastation in Kansas, which was liberally responded to and very encouraging reports and supplies followed. The first cash in many instances was returned to the donors in defraying railroad expenses of the party sent, after which all donations were equally divided among the needy of that section. A stock company of ten was formed in North Cowley county by advancing five dollars each to send Adam Walek back to Ohio. This committee of ten was to have full benefit of all aid solicitations by him while in Ohio. The first consignment was clothing and one hundred dollars. This was 100 per cent.

profit in cash to the stockholders and their stock at once went to a premium. One young fellow sold his stock to a poor widow for her only cow. Later another party sold his twice in one day, as he was ready to leave the country, realizing twenty dollars. No further cash contributions came through that channel. The most lasting benefit to the State at large in this line was in the individual and Congressional contribution of seeds in abundance of various kinds, which started the country afresh with the best seeds of the land. Yet, in short, all church, public and individual aid from the East was duly appreciated as will be later noted.

Richland township during this pioneer period was visited by several destructive prairie fires caused by Indians firing the prairie. South of us, near the State line, with favorable wind and little obstruction, it soon swept north for many miles. In October, 1871, the greater part of Richland surface was swept by one of these fires, the loss of much property and one death resulting. George Cline, then at work on Eight Mile for M. G. Jones, perceiving that a fire was coming from the south, at once set out to protect his claim shanty, located one mile south, but the raging flames reached there before he did. His only hope was to hasten back, but was soon overtaken by the oncoming fire and in an effort to run through the flames all his clothing was burned from his person. In this agonizing state he managed to get back to Mr. Jones', and died from his injuries the following day. In his conscious hours he related his experience, stating that he had on his person \$200 in a leather pocketbook. After his sufferings ended several parties went up to search for the lost purse. A few buttons and a pocket knife were found and also footprints of a horse, which was followed to a place two miles northeast, a light rain having fallen after the fire passed over, making it an easy matter to follow the footprints. The peculiar shape of the track led to the ownership of the horse, and on inquiry it was learned that he had started on business for Emporia that morning. Two parties with a legally executed search warrant were hastened up the valley, overtaking their man above El Dorado, who denied finding the purse, but on being informed that he would have to submit to a search, as they held papers to that effect, he confessed and produced the outward scorched purse with full contents and was permitted to go on. In the same fire, Mrs. M. H. Lea, near the center of the township, on seeing the coming flames nearing her house, and thinking it would be consumed, in her excitement picked up the feather bed and ran out of doors in order to save it, but before she found a suitable place for it the smoke and heat caused her to drop the bed and get back in the house. The feather bed was cremated, but the house and contents were uninjured. The following year in an electric storm, Joseph Kellems, only son of Harmon Kellems, and a brother of Mrs. Jesse Perry, was instantly killed by lightning a few hundred yards west of where Pleasant Valley school house now stands. Following this, another respected

citizen residing in the west part of the township, Mr. Meeker, lost his hay barn from this cause, consuming two horses and a wagon. Recovering somewhat from this loss, he left the township and later, with a member of his family, met death on a railroad crossing in Cowley county.

It can be said to the credit of Richland that during this period when unwritten law and expert bluffing and spasmodic use of firearms predominated, no serious blood was shed in adjusting rights of settlers and their deliberations one with the other. On the other hand, every settler's latch string hung out, and his supplies for the inner man (if he had any) were in a measure free and it was no crime or trespass for one settler to stop and get feed for himself and horse in the absence of the proprietor. He would leave his card of thanks and move on, perhaps looking for a claim, a stray horse, or something else. It was a period of socialism in its true sense, as one person was just as good as his best neighbor and had just as much (nothing) and could easily and readily divide.

Exports of this period consisted principally of hides from long horn cattle that had failed to tide through the winters after having been driven from Texas late in the season; a few deer pelts and furs, such as mink, otter, wolf, raccoon and feathered game during the winter season. The imports were everything else of necessity, wagoned from Emporia and later from Florence, except venison and buffalo meat, which was then obtained near at hand, but not without some hardships and suffering when overtaken by blizzards so frequent in those days on the treeless prairie. Jake VanBuskirk described the outcome of those days in this manner: On being interrogated by a new comer, the following year, as to how the people managed to live through this trying pioneer period, said: "Well, sir, it was just this way: Our garments waxed not old in those days, and we subsisted principally on grasshoppers, buffalo meat, dead prairie chickens, jack rabbits, slippery elm bark and catfish."

On or about the beginning of the year of 1875, the cloud of pioneer gloom and adversity rapidly dispersed and the sunlight of progress and prosperity rewarded the toilers with bountiful crops for many years to the extent that Richland had plenty and to spare. In just one decade, from 1874 to 1884, when the township contributed a full car of No. 1 corn to the Ohio Valley sufferers, caused by the highest water ever known in that valley, a whole train load was sent from Kansas, a reciprocal donation for past favors, with interest, based on money value. This corn was sold to a Kentucky syndicate and the proceeds given to the destitute. We learned that it was converted into whiskey and presume shipped back to the West under the label of Kentucky Bourbon or Old Rye, and sold for four or five dollars per gallon. This was equal to assisting a mule from the mire and when his going is established, to have him right about and kick you. The rapid settlement of Rich-

land during this decade (and previous) were by an industrious class of people and early advocates of schools, education and political equal rights.

Richland township, in its primitive state previous to 1874, politically was under Douglass township rule, they having the balance of power, controlling the nomination and election of all township officers. All judiciary was held in Douglass and heavy assessing in Richland. The trustee would come over into Richland and assess everything he could find on a claim whether the owner was there or not, regardless to whom it belonged, just so he knew who was holding down the claim; assess all rails and posts anywhere on the land at five dollars per hundred and all dead animals (if he could learn that they were alive on March 1st of that year) and all in school district No. 20. This and the course of other events, of taxation without representation, caused the circulation of a petition praying that we might be set off as a separate township, which petition was at first rejected by the county commissioners on grounds that it was penciled instead of being penned, and a few other minor technicalities. A meeting was then called at Maple Creek school house, the petition renewed and enlarged and names suggested for the township. H. B. Furgeson claims to have suggested the name Richland, which being most appropriate and fitting, was adopted. The prayed for petition was granted in January, 1874, and the first election was held on April 19th of that year in a claim house owned by Mrs. Snodgrass; situated near the southeast corner of southwest one-fourth of section 15. A few days previous to the election a called meeting was held at Maple Creek school house, and the following ticket formulated: Trustee, J. H. Lowery; clerk, B. M. Hodgins; treasurer, A. J. Cramer; justices, Smith Goodspeed and J. Vanhouton; constables, F. Fleck and J. Oldham. At this first election forty-eight votes were cast. Early on election day a bolt was made on the nominee for trustee and L. B. Hull was elected in his stead along with the balance of the ticket.

This election board was composed of, judges, Smith Goodspeed, T. Fleck, M. H. Lee; clerks, J. H. Lowery and L. D. Himebaugh.

This being the hopper devastation year, our State motto, "Ad Astra Per Aspera," can be very fittingly applied to this little sub-division. All the elect qualified in due time, save treasurer, who, for cause of absence from township, L. D. Himebaugh was appointed in his stead for ensuing year. Same officers were re-elected the following year. L. B. Hull served the township as trustee for several years, and was succeeded by James McCluggage for two terms. Up to this time party politics was not known or recognized in selection of candidates for township officers, which was usually done with little or no previous arrangement, on the morning of election. Clerks and judges of election after being duly sworn and opening of polls, would have a temporary recess, till ticket was formulated and ready to be passed by a judge from the hand of a voter to a paper box (usually a shoe

box) with hole in top covered with a primer, almanac or a pamphlet of recent election laws. At this period and for a few years later, township elections were held in February, until Richland Centre school house was built in 1878. All elections were held one-half mile west at "Deacon Harris's," or on south side of road at Rev. Harrison's. Just previous to the spring election of 1880 the first township (Republican) caucus was held and the following township ticket nominated: Trustee, L. D. Himebaugh; treasurer, D. W. Ulan; clerk, James Walton; justices, Smith Goodspeed and A. Vanhouton; constables, H. B. Furgeson and Than Fleck.

This year in early summer Smith Goodspeed moved from Kansas to Oregon, after having served as justice eight years and having had many important as well as many unimportant justice of peace cases to dispose of which when carried to higher courts, his finding was generally sustained. One on change of venue was the noted civil action, wherein Niel Wilkie was plaintiff and Sam Parker, defendant. Controversy was over an old stone wagon worth \$10 or \$12 used by plaintiff while making the fill in Walnut river west of Douglass. Both plaintiff and defendant claiming ownership of wagon by purchase from different parties. After being used several days by plaintiff, it disappeared between two days, and its whereabouts were only known (or supposed to be known) by defendant. A legal search did not reveal all parts of the wagon. The plaintiff at a hearing before Justice Goodspeed was represented by Attorney A. L. Redden of El Dorado, and defense by Wall Webb of Winfield. The proceeding was to establish ownership of property. After all evidence had been produced and ably commented on by attorneys, the Court's finding was for defendant. Appeal was taken to a higher court, which, in time, sustained the justice Court's decision, and the wagon, if ever found, was probably by this time in some junk pile. Mr. Goodspeed was a justice in the full sense of the term, would always bring about a compromise between litigants, if in his power to do so. At one time two of his neighbors, of equal merit in his estimation, became angered and a little bloodthirsty at each other over trespassing of stock pro and con between them, one had exacted several dollars' damage by retaining his stock, when found on his premises a few days later, his cattle was lured across the road and corralled. Notice was given the owner, of which he paid no heed, but at a late hour of the night, stole across and drove his stock home. On finding his neighbor's stock was back home in the morning without his knowledge, his indignation was then ripe for a fight or a suit. Squire Goodspeed was consulted, failing to effect a peaceable settlement and wishing to avoid a suit, suggested a settlement by referee, by taking thirteen names of householders in the community, and each party striking off alternately one name till twelve were challenged, and the remaining one should hear the evidence and his decision be final. This being agreed upon, the referee honor, task



or misfortune fell to L. D. Himebaugh, who, after hearing the sworn testimony of plaintiff and defendant, revealing the fact that defendant had wilfully opened carroll and driven the cattle from plaintiff's enclosure, in violation of herd law custom, his decision was \$1 damages to be paid plaintiff by defendant and cost of referee proceedings in all, \$4.40. Justice Goodspeed enjoyed or rather endured nearly all township, judiciary and legal business, even in officiating in occasional marriages, whose tying up, like that of his judiciary, was seldom reversed. The justice of the peace business in central and southern part of township was later administered by H. B. Furgeson, James Walton, L. D. Himebaugh, J. H. Price and A. J. Thetgee, all of whom, save latter, enjoyed all the business they desired and more too, and gladly passed it on to some one else at expiration of office term. The same can be said of Staley, Smith, Hall, Oldham and Vanhouton, in north part of township, who officiated at different times, in that capacity.

Republican nominees with L. B. Hull as trustee met with success at polls in 1882-3-4-5, head of ticket suffered defeat, first by a Republican and later a Democrat, (B. M. Hodgin), who held the office two years, by reason of a legislative act setting aside spring elections and continuing township officers till November election. The November election of 1886 resulted as follows: Trustee, James McCluggage; clerk, A. Simpson; treasurer, D. W. Ulam; justices, Rev. Woodward and H. B. Furgeson. Trustee elected November, 1887, A. J. Cramer; trustee elected November, 1888, James McCluggage; trustee elected November, 1889, B. M. Hodgin; trustee elected November, 1890, Elias Mitchell; trustee elected November, 1891, Elias Mitchell; trustee elected November, 1892, A. J. Cramer; trustee elected November, 1893, W. S. Bacon; trustee elected November, 1894, H. B. Furgeson; trustee elected November, 1895 and 1896, H. D. Olmstead; trustee elected November, 1897 and 1898, B. G. Chauncy; trustee elected November, 1899, J. M. Kuhn; trustee elected November, 1900 and 1901, N. Russell; trustee elected November, 1902 and 1903, F. Staley, which office was made vacant by person-elect moving from township, and L. D. Himebaugh was appointed by county commissioners to fill vacancy. After this date by legislative act, township officers were elected for two years, instead of one. Trustee elected 1904, Ralph McCluggage; trustee elected 1906, Ralph McCluggage; trustee elected 1908, O. E. King; trustee elected 1910, O. E. King. Three members of first county commissioner's district were chosen from Richland during this period: A. Masterson, Lafe Stone, and L. B. Hull (later by appointment to fill vacancy). Several of her worthy citizens have been honored with a place on county ticket, but generally location and not qualification were adverse to success at polls, except on educational lines, treated of in following subject.

As formerly stated, Richland pioneers were early advocates of schools and methods of education. And like all new countries, efforts

to organize a school district had its adversaries, as a small per cent. of the land was dedded and subject to taxation, many householders were bachelors. A school district, to enumerate fifteen children of school age, required in the early '70's nine or ten square miles in order to erect a school building by bond issue, and in many cases this bond proposition met with defeat through those who would have the burden of taxation to bear for a few years, and those whose time had not yet come to have children of their own to educate. In districts where this interest predominated a claim house was donated, by some bachelor who had made final entry on his claim or perhaps moved in with a neighbor bachelor, to let his house be fixed up and used for school purposes. Law made it necessary for a term of three months school to be taught by a qualified teacher in a newly formed district before being entitled to any state funds. This first school by subscription, like many other requirements in pioneer days, was breaking the ice and paving the way for smoother sailing and better days. Yet, with few exceptions, all settlers subscribed freely towards maintaining the first school, but in many instances, drouth, grasshoppers or prairie fires caused some to fall short of their subscription when time and effort to collect rolled round. A teacher's order in those days, like some other commercial paper, was not worth much at home and less abroad, necessitating a few to increase their original subscriptions to meet delinquency. School district No. 63, being the first to organize within the bounds of township embracing three and one-half miles' North and South, and three miles East and West. First school was taught in early summer of '73, by Mrs. Freeman at \$15 per month, in a claim house near the southeast corner of northeast quarter of section 27, belonging to James Lee, repaired and fitted up for school purposes. There being no travelled roads or visible lines, it was thought best by patrons to run a furrow from school house to northeast corner of district, which was done with breaking plow to aid pupils in that part of the district to go to and from school. The following year district 80 was organized in southwest corner of township, being the first to erect a school building by aid of bonds. Said bonds were sold at eighty cents. Seventy-eight, (Diamond), district followed in organizing and soon erected a fine stone school building. Eighty-one was organized and completed its school building a short time prior to that of 78. One hundred nine was next organized and several terms were taught in a claim house before a school building proper was erected. District No. 100, previously numerically given, but later organized in limitation by taking territory from districts 63, 78, and 109, in order that a suitable location of said district 100 would be in centre of township, convenient for both school and township purposes. District 110, on or near north line of township, was also organized in the latter '70's, being very artistically finished for that day, but like that of 81, got too big for its clothes, and merged with several other districts, (or parts of them), into a consolidated union in 1907 for methods of advanced education.

In less than one decade from date of organization in Richland township had seven public school buildings within her borders, where, in each a school was maintained from three to seven months during the year, and Richland soon took place in first column and near the top too for good school buildings, good schools and good teachers. From the ranks of its teachers came the first female county superintendent of Butler county, Mrs. Florence Holcomb Olmstead, who devoted her time, talent, and energy in the discharge of her official duty, giving, as it were, her life in the line of education and reform. She, coming to Kansas from Indiana with her parents in seventy-two, began teaching at the age of sixteen, was Federal census enumerator of Richland township in 1880. She died at the age of thirty-three, near the close of her office term as county superintendent. Four years later, 1894, another one of Richland's teachers, K. M. Holcomb, a member of same family, was called by vote of the people to the high and honorable office of county superintendent of public institutions. Like that of his sister, his administration was up-to-date, of that day in theory and practice, full of flowers and reforms, pertaining to education and social interest, leaving footprints, not in the sands, but indelibly stamped in the minds of the rising generation to his official credit and the fair land if Richland.

On completion of the Sante Fe cut off from Augusta to Mulyane, the name and business of Rose Hill was moved one mile west, and enjoyed a steady growth in business and population; that the town with a little adjoining territory formed a school district, erecting the eighth school building within the township, in the year 1890, numerically known as district No. . . . or the New Rose Hill school. A few years later the consolidation of rural districts for a township, or central high school, was strongly advocated by leading educators and being adopted and tried with good results in some sections of the State; the energetic people of Rose Hill and vicinity were enthused with the opportunity for establishing a high consolidated school in the young town as a further incentive to progress and prosperity. After due and legal primaries, an election was called, resulting in favor of consolidation of four school districts. A bond election was held in due time to vote on the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$10,000 for the erection of a consolidated high school building. Said election resulted in favor of bond issue; the city hall was fitted up and seated for school purposes, where the first school was held, commencing September, 1908, with 200 pupils attending. On completion of the new, commodious and imposing school building, a feeling of good cheer went up from patrons and pupils. September, 1909, the four departments with principal and four assistants, opened with renewed vigor and increased enrollment of pupils, for a nine month term for ensuing year. Lilly Picket and Merl Moon have the honor of being the first graduates of this institution, which exercises were held at close of term, 1909.

Under amusements is classed the various methods of social sporting and beneficial entertainments during this historical period. The first indulgence in this line by early settlers was as much of a necessity as amusement. Deer, antelope, badger, (and along the streams, wild turkey, raccoons and beaver), were quite numerous, affording both sport and meat, in their capture. At times several horsemen with hounds and guns would chase a bunch of deer or antelope, as much for the sport as their capture. Mr. Couch and his boys, (later of Oklahoma fame), would often indulge in that kind of sport between the Walnut and Arkansas generally bagging their game by the time the chase reached one of the extremes. The writer well remembers when at one time his newly made garden suffered a tramping up by two does and a buck, leading four hounds followed by several broncos and riders; none ever so much as halted to offer an apology for the intrusion; one-half mile west the creek was crossed and a counter chase was made down north side of creek, resulting in the capture of one doe; the other two were permitted to go on for the chase another day, or target for some settler's rifle. The still and hide hunt was more successful in bagging of antelope and turkey. A pony purse, horse race and occasional shooting match for a hog, goose or turkey was indulged in with much compelling interest in those days; until the fair sex numbers and influence changed the order of things somewhat, when social gatherings at some ranch dwelling was of frequent occurrence, where quadrille and waltz kept pace and step to violin music.

Like all pioneer settlements, the dance mania like the ague, of that day, was nearly unanimous, at least the majority had it bad, yes and good too, as later on, when Richland was part of Rev. Harrison's mission field, the proceeds of a social dance and supper was occasionally means for a pastor's donation; and by him accepted in good faith. These social entertainments were soon varied somewhat by organization of literary societies for social and mutual benefit. The first in the township was organized December 14, 1872, at John Gardener's house, situated near south line of section 17. The prime movers being Mr. Goodspeed, Mr. Gardner, Mrs. Weston, Miss Jennie Weston and Miss Maria Walton. This was principally a debating society, of questions pertaining to best interest and needs of settlers, herd law, female suffrage, credit system, etc. The participants were Gardner, Goodspeed, Roberts, Doc. Berger, Tucker, Walton, Gaymon, Stansberry, McCluggage, Carlton, Furgeson, and Mrs. Weston. The society was well attended and well conducted, meeting semi-monthly during the winter. It was re-organized at same place in early winter of seventy-three, and changed place of meeting to Maple Creek school house on its completion in 1874, at which place it was re-organized and held for several consecutive winters. Soon after the completion of school building in district 78, (Diamond), an interesting debating society was organized in that part of township. The leading lights being L. B. Hull and sons,

Williams, Cox, Sinclair, Davis, Picket and the Hodgin brothers. A good literary program, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, readings, dialogues and paper, was rendered semi-monthly. L. M. Williams held the standing appointment as critic at all meetings, whose criticisms were beneficially and well rendered. The society continued with unabated interest for several winters. The third organization of this nature within the borders of the township was at Providence school house during the winter of 1883-4, and known as the Rose Lawn Literary society which met semi-monthly during the winter, being a debating society, in general. Participants were W. G. Giesy, George Bannon, J. R. McKay, Dr. Work, H. B. Furgeson, Himebaugh, A. C. Thetgee and others. Following this, a few years later, the Mutual Information Society was organized and held meetings for mutual benefit in town hall over the store, during the winter and early spring. This being a select or restricted organization, a clause in the by-laws required all members to prepare and take part in all duties and subjects assigned them by president or committee on program, which made it diversified and no less interesting and beneficial. Another known as the Twilight Club, composed of school "marms," male teachers and students, met for mutual benefit at stated intervals in south part of the township, during the closing winter of the nineteenth century, Miss Cora Stanley being the prime mover. In north part of township, reading clubs and spelling contests greatly interested the progressive class during the nineties. The growth of Rose Hill during this and the following decade brought about the more up-to-date instruction and entertainments. Aside from the high school entertainments, and base ball contests, a series of lecture courses was held during the winter of 1909 and 1910 through auspices of the Lyceum Bureau, at the Rose Hill high school building.

As the primitive customs, of no noted observance of the Sabbath day, in the business routine of labor and sociability with the early settlement of S. W. Kansas, like that of all other pioneer sections, grew in numerical strength, a Christian spirit, leading to Sabbath observance naturally begins to find favor and endorsement among all civilized people, so it was in Richland. 'Tis conceded that the first Sunday school organized within the bounds of Richland township was at the claim house of Miss Maria Walton, situated on northwest corner of southwest quarter section thirty-three, in the summer of 1872. The prime movers being Miss Walton and brothers, all supplies being sent from Waukesha, Wis., their former home. The school continued to grow in interest and was later moved to the home of Mr. Hatch and on completion of the school house was for years held there, known as the Maple Creek Sunday school.

At one period under the superintendency of L. P. Carlton was recognized the banner Sunday school of Richland township. Following this a Union Sunday school was organized in the north part of town-

ship, which was well attended and much interest manifested. Mr. and Mrs. Haines and Mr. Staley were active in advancing the cause. In the late summer of seventy-two, Rev. Green of the M. E. faith and order was given a Mission field in Southwest Butler and adjoining territory. He held a series of meetings at Stanberry's house the following winter. The second missionary awakening was in the north part of the township, by one or more parties advocating the Seventh-day Advent doctrine. Meetings were held at the home of B. M. Hodgen, (a bachelor), whose home and hospitality were always open for religious services, as well as social entertainments, which often varied the evangelistic service with a change of program, for one evening. Rev. Harrison followed Rev. Green in his Mission field for a few years, organizing several classes. He was later followed by Rev. McCollister who changed the denominational order to that of Protestant Methodist which gained numerical strength and following, resulting in the erection and dedication of the first church house within the bounds of the township, in eighty-four, situated on northeast quarter of section 23, known as the Pleasant Hill church. Several years later, Rose Hill class built a good church house, and later in 1906 the same denomination erected a church two miles south of township, known as the Red Bud Church. The three classes constituted a ministerial field till 1909 when at the convening of the general conference, Rose Hill was set off as a station. Since then one minister is employed for Rose Hill class and one for Pleasant Hill and Red Bud.

The faith and order known as Friends were early in exercising their influence and worship, holding meetings from time to time at various places in north part of the township, and as early as 1881 completed a church house near the north line of the township, from which the good benefits have emanated equal in a great measure to that of Penn in colonial days. The next awakening was that of the Christian order by Revs. Harvey, Barret, Yard, in the latter seventies which gained endorsement and following through series of meetings held in various parts of township, setting forth Scripture teaching and the duty of man to man, and man to God, not fully in harmony with other orthodox creeds and belief. A joint discussion on this line worthy of historic note between Rev. Yard and an M. E. clergyman was held at Pleasant valley school house in July, 1879. The day was warm and sultry and the house filled to overflowing; during services a small cloud was seen to form apparently from a clear sky followed by a distant peal of thunder. As the approaching cloud grew more dense and gradually taking on the form of a twister, the knowledge being conveyed by the onlookers outside to the attentive listeners inside, soon marred the real interest of the discussion, which was changed to that of fear of the approaching storm. Some with their rigs hastily departed for home. The services had a premature concluding, as the approaching dense twister lowered and drew nearer, causing many to desert the dwelling

and seek outside protection along the hedges to which they clung with a firm grip, trusting divine power beyond the elements for protection. It is said as Mr. Turner Holcomb and wife came and saw the impending danger, Mrs. Holcomb, realizing that they could not reach home, said, "We must trust to Providence," while her husband remarked, "Yes, trust in Providence, but cling to the hedge roots." The center of the storm passed near, followed by a slight sprinkle of hail and drenching rain. The fierceness of the twister lowered to earth northwest of the school house and swept everything in its path in a northeasterly direction, striking the house of John Nichols, swept it from foundation, scattering contents and material for a mile or more along its path, also vehicles and some stock on the premises. Occupants sought refuge in an out door cellar, the only thing not torn asunder by the cyclone. No lives were lost in Richland and no thoughts or theory attributes the freak elements of that Sabbath day to the joint discussion in the little school house, where both art and nature was made manifest, not soon to be forgotten, by those who heard, saw, feared and felt.

Later the religious work was furthered along through the labors of Revs. Wright and Cain, resulting in the erection of a fine church building in the latter eighties, situated on south line of section 15 as a beacon light and gospel dispensary; gaining numerical strength, as well as being the early Christian home of Harold Olmstead, son of H. D. Olmstead, who later has won distinction in his evangelistic work in other states as well as at home. With three denominational churches, within her borders and four nearby (Friends) in which two or more ordained ministers of today had their early Christian home, Revs. Wells and Hinshaw, and two of the M. P. denomination, A. Shipman and H. Woodward, who later joined the M. E. church in his early ministry; which all goes to show Richland's output and progress in Christian workers and work in line with all other advances during this historical period and greater results of the seed sown will doubtless later be known.

In 1890 the Federal census of Richland (taken by the writer) recorded the least percent. of illiteracy of any enumerator district in the state, save one, being a fraction over one and one-half per cent. of all who were ten years old and over, and the same can be said on the line of poverty and pauperism.

The first Federal postoffice established within bounds of the township was in 1873 at the residence of L. M. Williams, situated on southeast quarter of section 5, and known as Rose Hill postoffice, deriving the name through J. H. Lowrey who had a great fancy for botanical culture and made great effort to beautify his home claim, the northwest quarter of section 8, in the early summer of seventy-three by growing roses and other flowers and shrubbery to his fancy to be known as the Rose farm. But his efforts were badly blighted the following year by the grasshopper invasion, and all he had left to start with on the

following spring was the name, which was perpetuated in the name of the postoffice. L. M. Williams being first postmaster and continued as such for five years, when the office was moved north one mile to the house of H. C. Staley who succeeded Mr. Williams as postmaster. A few years later, Mr. Meecker succeeded Mr. Staley till Rose Hill became a railroad village and office established. The second Federal office was at Rev. Harrison's on section 21 and known as Richland Centre, in 1878 or 1879, being discontinued in 1882. The third Federal postoffice within bounds, was in the early summer of 1883 on section 34. Providence postoffice, the name given the inland mineral water resort. John Dunnell was appointed postmaster, whose son, C. F. Dunnell, pre-empted the land and sunk a well to the depth of 142 feet and struck water of a salty, peculiar taste. He was advised to have it analyzed rather than discarding its use entirely for domestic purposes; which was done. The great beneficial and curative properties were tested by several, for ailments and infirmities. Among those was A. Hilde of Wichita, who, after receiving great benefit from the use of water, was instrumental and prime mover in the organizing of a stock company, for improvements of well, comforts and convenience of any who stood in need of the healing balm.

A general supply store was built north of the road by A. A. Hyde, also the fine country dwelling (now owned by K. M. Holcomb). The store building was one of two stories. Norman Hagan acted as proprietor of the store, his family occupying the rooms above. This continued for a time. The stock was later purchased by H. T. Holcomb who continued the store and postoffice for several years. N. M. Hare put up a convenient blacksmith shop on the new town site, Warrender & Beedy a good livery barn; a dwelling of modern architecture was also built nearby and occupied several years by R. Warrender. Copner built on Mineral street and kept a fair stock of merchandise in connection with the postoffice. C. F. Dunnell and another family had their residences on this street, and Rev. Latham later conducted a store on Providence row. Dr. Adams for a time occupied the hotel and conducted a drug store. The north building on Mineral street was a neat cottage built and occupied by the builder, as a residence and confectionary in a small degree. All lines of business enjoyed a profitable patronage so long as the prime movers and patrons, during the Wichita boom days, lent support and advocated the beneficial effects of a few weeks' outing at the Providence mineral resort. Numerous parties during the summer of 1885-6 and later, from Wichita, enjoyed (or endured) a few weeks' stay at Providence, Butler county.

Causing a depression or cessation of business and interest of Providence, on par, with that of the Peerless Princess collapse period. When Wichita lost faith in herself, Providence was sold to the farmers in that vicinity. Following this was the Oklahoma boom and opening, and many of the village residents winged that way. Soon many dwellings



of the mineral well village left on wheels. George Osborn has several on his farm which have been twice wrecked by cyclone since moving; he said it was Providentially so ordained and no fault of his. One store and the postoffice was kept alive by various parties until 1898 when it was discontinued and the building moved off, leaving the hotel and K. M. Holcomb's residence of the original Providence, which still remain. The hotel is now by bequeathment the property of Ed Dunnell, son of C. F. Dunnell. With the gradual decline and patronage of the healing qualities of the Providence mineral output, during the eighties, was the incentive for Rose Hill to forge to the front, which it did on completion of the railroad in 1887. Situated in the northwest part of the township, surrounded by a fine agricultural and stock company, it soon became a very prominent shipping point which, like the town, has been on the increase, keeping pace with progress.

Rose Hill is noted as a clean, tidy village. A larger per cent. of its buildings are more artistically painted than any town in the county and boasts of more and better sidewalks in proportion to population than any wide-awake town in the county. Good walks extend to the high school building in the south part of the village, all pupils attending this school residing one-half mile distant are conveyed to and from school at the expense of district in comfortable rigs fitted for that purpose.

Rose Hill is the distributing point of two rural routes, and has up-to-date 'phone service with surrounding country and towns.

Of the forty-seven personal tax payers of 1875, only seven are found on the personal tax roll of 1910. As follows: Briles, A. J.; Cramer, A. J.; Himebaugh, L. D.; Millison, Wm.; Pulver, Wm.; Williams, L. M.; McCluggage, Jas.

One branch of the Texas cattle drive via Wichita to Abilene traversed Richland township from southeast to northwest, where a herd of 1000 or more long horns could be seen most any day during midsummer of 1870, and a few drives were made the following year, when settlement interfered, forcing the drive west of the Arkansas river, terminating at Dodge City on completion of railroad to that point. The class of cattle and the men who handled them (cowboys) were monarch of all they surveyed and their rights there were none to dispute, resulted in many tragic fatalities. The cattle were chuck full of the same spirit; settlers often rode out to see the herds when grazing, with a view of purchasing one for beef, and would naturally dismount to look more closely, but he was warned by several long horns facing him, indicating, "You get off the grass, or into your saddle, or we will raise you one." No time was lost in getting back into saddle. Many of these Texas cattle were purchased and wintered here and sent to market the following summer. There being no railroad they were driven to Kansas City or some point in Missouri. Texas cattle wintered in the state of Kansas were by statutory law exempt from quarantine and

permitted to be driven to market on certificate of county clerk of county, where wintered.

### ROCK CREEK TOWNSHIP.

By J. D. Hamilton.

On February 15, 1872, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, asking that a township to be called Rock Creek be formed out of the territory described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of section 36, township 20, range 4, thence running north on section line six miles, thence east nine miles, thence south six miles, thence west nine miles to the place of beginning. The petition was granted, and the residence of John Wilson was appointed as the place for holding elections. The first officers were: A. T. Havens, trustee; Benjamin Thomas, treasurer; P. Dillman, clerk; W. S. Wilson and G. W. Wakefield, justices of the peace; John Beard and Thomas Campbell, constables.

The first land upon which final proof was made, according to the records here, was in section 32, for which a patent was issued June 13, 1870, to Parlina A. Kinder. Among others making final proof in the early seventy's were Chester Briggs, R. A. Taylor, William Cousins, C. R. Guyot, J. J. and J. W. Plummer, Amos Stewart, George W. Burk, James B., Gilbert L., and M. M. Walker, O. B. Lent, S. W. and John A. Adams, S. F. Gibson, E. M. Denton, L. W. Benepe, John Crowe, Joseph Matheny, J. E. Valkman, Charles M. Little, J. I. Hall, A. B. Woodruff, Henry Bally. Those who still own their original claims are W. G. Cousins, C. Guyot, Amos Stewart, G. W. Gibson, Joe Hall, and others whose names I can not recall.

Rock Creek is one of the best townships in the county. Having no city, there is not so much attention given it. Two creeks, Muddy and Rock Creek, pass through it, one on the north, the other on the south, which gives it a good water supply. Many acres of the most fertile land in the county are found here while the uplands are fine for stock raising. Ed Gussman, John Bush, E. Dornboss are extensive stock raisers and shippers, and many farmers raise hogs and young stock, and when you speak of the hen, Rock Creek scores ninety-eight and one-half per cent. There are more women raising more chickens and selling more eggs here than in any other township in the county. There are more eggs laid in one day in Rock Creek than are laid in Rhode Island in a month. More roosters crow and wake up more farmer boys at four o'clock than they do in North Dakota. In fact, Rock Creek has them all skinned a city block, on the chicken question.

There are eight school houses in the township used for churches as well as school, and one church, the McCabe Chapel, owned by the Methodist Episcopal denomination. They have a registered minister

every Sunday. Union Sunday school, all the ladies' accessories, children's and mothers' day, and even the ever present Ladies Aid Society. As I stated before there are no villages in the township, but Smiley and Welch have a general store seven miles east of Douglass, and a hall that would make Augusta jealous. Talk about your shallow test; Smiley and Welch have an oil well on top of the ground. The place is called Smileyberg on account of Smiley having the store, and Bamey, who runs a blacksmith shop, sharpens tools, has a gasoline engine and furnishes the hot air for the town. A good time is to call on Bamey, just before dinner and you will have a square meal.

Some of the older citizens that are yet living are Pete Dillman, Hank Johnson, W. O. B. Lent, Mrs. Amma Doyle, widow of the late Patrick Doyle. The Doyle family are some of the best citizens. Henry Bally, Isaiah Stevens, G. W. Bibson, James Graves, family have all been good citizens. W. H., the father of Bare Boy, Amos Whitney, Robert Briggs, C. E. Sleece, Stevanson, Houser, and many others I could mention, have all helped in the uplift of this community.

One of the old landmarks of Rock Creek township is Mount Tabor school house which has been used for church and school purposes for forty years, and children that got their education there have been called to the four winds of the earth. C. R. Johnson, one of the most prosperous farmers, lives north of it and has 240 acres of land. Mack Phillipa is also a prosperous farmer and good trader. Steve Long bought the Heshly estate and for a small sum a few years ago and made a good farm of it. John Haggard, from Germany, and his devoted wife, have a fine farm.

#### ROSALIA TOWNSHIP.

The records of the county commissioners fail to show date of organization of this township, but from other sources it is known that it was formed out of a portion of El Dorado township in 1871. An election was held in said township, April 8, 1871, and the following officers elected: R. Huston, trustee; S. Woodman, clerk; H. Wagner, treasurer; H. C. Stevens, justice of the peace; D. R. Blankenship, constable; and William Baily, road overseer.

Rosalia township took its name from that of the first postoffice established in that portion of the county. H. C. Stevens and his uncle, J. M. Stevens, came out from Mendota, Illinois, filed on homesteads and improved them. The postoffice was located at his house and in casting about for a name for it the happy thought of honoring his wife occurred to him and he called it Rosalia.

The first settlers came in 1868 but they did not stay. Those who did establish a local habitation are: 1869—D. R. Blankenship, Phil Korn, Robert Huston, Sam Woodward, J. G. Cook, James B. Correll and George Auten; 1870—A. P. Foster, S. H. Foster, Hiram Benedict, Gus Raymond, Mr. Tuttle, Dick Wiley, Samuel Davidson (who built

the first house on the high prairie between Eureka and El Dorado), William Woods, J. T. McClure, L. W. Decker, Nelson Surpluss, James and J. P. Huntley, Elias Leh, Fred Miller, G. W. Chamberlain, Charles Butler, the Shermans and N. B. Snyder; 1871—George McDaniels, Robert Martin and Doc Reynolds.

Walter Clark came in seventy-two and still lives in the old township, jolly as ever. The same year came M. M. Piper and his sons, Charles, Allen, Will, Dan and Val. George Songer and his family came about that time. The privations of some of these people sound like romance. Nelson Surpluss, having no conveyance, in 1871 carried a sack of flour home from El Dorado, at least thirteen miles and was glad to get it that way. The biscuits tasted mighty good, so he says. His daughter, Miss Mary, the first white girl born in Rosalia, was one of the county's foremost teachers. Forman Cook is the first boy born in the township.

D. R. Blankenship drove his stake on his present farm on the north branch of the Little Walnut in November, sixty-nine. Himself, wife and baby began the battle in December following. Their worldly possessions were two horses, a wagon and \$50. One of the horses died, which was a serious loss. Preacher Small sold him some of Charley Noe's corn at seventy-five cents a bushel, and Elias Bishop of Chelsea let him have some at the same figure. Edward Jeakins, below El Dorado, parted with two bushels of potatoes at \$4.50. J. G. Cook helped him and soon poles were ready for the log cabin which G. W. Miller and Robert Huston helped him to build. He rived the "shakes" from an oak tree and roofed the cabin himself; then chinked it and moved in on a dirt floor and built a fire in the stone fire place. Even the hinges of the door were his own make. He tells this whopper: In February, seventy, he sowed wheat and oats on prairie sod which he turned over and harrowed. His crop was twelve bushels of wheat and thirty of oats to the acre. This was the first sod broken in the township and who can doubt that Providence favored the poor and humble homesteaders and their families.

The town of Rosalia was platted in September, 1883, by G. W. Chamberlain and F. G. Miller. It is now a thriving little village on the Missouri Pacific railroad, having two general stores; C. A. Blankenship and S. R. Anderson; B. F. Braason, hardware; the Rock Island Lumber Company; a State Bank, J. H. Liggett, cashier, and other business firms and all prosperous. The township has about twelve miles of railroad within its borders which assists in keeping up the school and other taxes. There have been but two county officers from Rosalia township: S. F. Packard, county commissioner and W. A. Liggett, county assessor.

## SPRING TOWNSHIP.

By M. L. Arnold.

Spring township was named by Henry M. Wingert, because of its numerous and beautiful springs. Was incorporated by the board of county commissioners September 4, 1871. The first election was held at the home of O. Greer, September 19, 1871. The following were elected: Kane Garrison, trustee; James Crawford, treasurer; C. F. Miller, clerk; E. H. Clark and G. Stephens, justices of the peace; H. King and D. Church, constables.

The early settlers of Spring endured all the privations, hardships and pleasures incident to life in a new country. Those who stayed were more than compensated for all the self denial practiced and all the struggles through which they passed. But few are left. Those living on their homesteads at the present time are L. A. Ridge, B. F. Arnold, J. B. Smock, H. C. Morgan, and I. G. Morgan, C. C. Currier, who resides in El Dorado still owns the quarter he preempted. Children owning the land pre-empted by their fathers are J. C. Green, George Deedond, J. J. Mannion, of Augusta; W. A. Warner, O. Cody and John White. Among the early settlers who bought their land and still remain are W. B. Earll, L. Bolinger, D. T. Willits, Mrs. Carrie Bankey, Mrs. James Conest, Mrs. W. Sharrock and J. H. Armstrong and G. W. McGahey, of El Dorado.

Thus we can see that the pioneers who moved from comfortable homes in the East, many of them, and broke the prairie, built the homes, planted the hedges and orchards, established the churches and schools are almost gone. Those who are left are not the vigorous men of forty-five years ago, many of them are broken in health, old, retired; the second generation have active charge of affairs today and the third is fast coming on. Next to the name of the soldier should be placed the name of the pioneer who gave much of his life that we might enjoy the luxuries that are ours today.

Among the important accounts in the early history of Spring township was the building of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad in the summer of 1880. The establishment of a general store at Haverhill in the same year by the late Joseph W. Brown was another important event. From a small beginning Mr. Brown built up a good business and prospered. For twenty-five years he was agent for the Frisco at Haverhill, at the time of his retirement being in point of service the oldest agent of the road between St. Louis and Wichita. Mr. Brown always took an active part in public affairs, was a man of strong personality and always stood for what he thought was right and for the best interests of the community. Before his death he sold his stock of goods to McDowell Brothers, who conduct the business at the present time. The store was a favorite meeting place for the exchange of ideas,

gossip and the discussion of all kinds of subjects. The man who would do his trading and hurry away was looked upon with a little suspicion.

H. H. Leonard, now of Wichita, and one of the finest citizens any community ever had, for many years held the checker championship of the store. He perhaps did not always play the best game, but played more of them. It was here that the first Haverhill base ball team was organized under the leadership of Will Glaze and for many years Haverhill has had one of the best teams in the county. J. C. Greer, who still ambles around first base with as much agility, if not quite as much grace, as he did twenty years ago, is the only member of this first team who still plays. J. C. Glaze, now one of the prosperous farmers of Spring township, at one time conducted a store at Haverhill. In 1902, C. R. Marshall and Sam Frank opened a general store at Haverhill. This business was successfully conducted in turn by Frank, J. B. and E. L. Marshall until 1915, when it was closed out by E. L. Marshall, that he might devote all of his time to his veterinary practice.

From an agricultural standpoint, it is an ideal township. It is divided up, as a rule, into small farms, a very large majority of the residents owning their own homes. It is drained by the Walnut and Little Walnut rivers. Along these streams and their branches are many acres of fine bottom land. The people are and always have been progressive, intelligent and law-abiding. In the forty-five years of its history, its criminal record consisted of one murder, that of William Jones, who was killed by an unknown party in December, 1903. C. C. Currier was justice of the peace for twenty-five years and never had a criminal case.

There are three churches in the township. These organizations, with their splendid membership, have always exerted a great influence for good over the entire community. In 1891, C. Y. Trice located a number of families from Illinois in Spring township, among whom were the families of C. R. Marshall, S. Kenyon, A. Bailey, J. H. Leonard, Knute Seglem and A. Kneutson. These families were a splendid addition to the community. Cave Springs, located in the northeast corner of the township on the A. C. Smock farm, has attracted much attention and is one of the natural wonders of the State. In this article time and space forbid the mention of many names that have been prominently identified with the history of the township and county. This story in its completeness is offered without apology in the hope that it will contribute to some extent to the memory of the pioneers of Butler county, Spring township, located in line of the developed oil and gas fields, and, with its wonderful natural resources, will contribute to the happiness and prosperity of its people for a century yet to come.

## CHAPTER XIII.

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### TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND TOWNS.

(Continued.)

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SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP—TOWANDA TOWNSHIP—TOWANDA—UNION TOWNSHIP—WALNUT TOWNSHIP.

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#### SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP.

By Mrs. Lizzie Bishop Harsh.

I esteem it quite an honor to be asked to add a little to the history of the great county of Butler. It was some time in February, 1866, that my father and mother, Elias and Nancy Jane Bishop, with my two sisters, Permelia and Emma, and myself landed in Butler county on the west branch of the Walnut river at the home of Uncle John Bishop, who, with his family, had moved there the year before. It was only a few days before we bought our farm north of Chelsea, moved and lived in a sheet shed belonging to G. T. Donaldson.

The doctors in our old home in Iowa advised my father to move and settle somewhere in the West on account of mother's health, which was very bad at that time. The following summer my father and cousin, Will Bishop, built our new home out of logs out of our own timber, puncheon floor, clapboard roof, and it was here that one more was added to the family, a baby brother, J. E. Bishop. Our house was one room and a shed kitchen. It was to us a mansion. My father was a carpenter; soon the country began to settle up and father had plenty of work. He helped to build the school building at Chelsea. Mother was a mid-wife and so had work out of the home, as the nearest doctor to be had was at Emporia. Just think of going to Emporia for all groceries, lumber and everything that we used. We brought one load of supplies with us, so did not have to go to town soon. We were homesick many times, but there were two classes of people, "goers and stayers," and we belonged to the latter class, as we were not able to go. We never wanted for meat, as my father was a hunter and brought in great many deer, chickens and a few turkeys. I remember we had fine

wild plums, raised sorghum and good gardens, but we had some things that were far from pleasant, grasshoppers, drought, prairie fires, hot and cold winds; Indians were plenty. I will always remember the first Indians that called at our home. We yet lived in the shed. Three very large fellows, real blanket and painted Indians came in without being asked, warmed by the fire, talked and then went out and looked at cousin's ponies, came in and warmed more, talked and looked around. Well, we girls stayed close to mother, who was so frightened that she was pale. The Indians said, "Squaw 'fraid, big 'fraid." They did not ask for anything. We learned afterwards that they were looking for stolen ponies.

Chelsea had the first school in the county, a little log hut on the bank of the Walnut, just east of the Donaldson home. Sister Permelia and I were pupils under three teachers (Mrs. Bates, Lizzie Shriver, now Mrs. Lizzie Ellis, and Mrs. J. E. Buchanan) in the little old cabin. By that time we had our new school house, No. 10, and it got that number by dividing the district and giving No. 1 to the northern district. By this time we had many neighbors and a saw mill on the Donaldson farm, very near our old log school house, and here I must say that my father made many, if not all, of the caskets to bury our dead, and one was our dear neighbor, G. T. Donaldson, who met his death by a saw log rolling off the wagon and onto him, crushing him. If people who complain of hard times and think they have so little could go back and go through one month of the early days they would be thankful and would not complain. Well, we lived through it all and enjoyed life, too. The whole neighborhood was one family. When the Ellises or Donaldsons killed a sheep, calf or pig, the Bishops had some, too; no strife or selfishness then. Soon people wanted some kind of amusement. The first was dancing, then parties. I think it was the second or third summer before we ever heard a sermon, and that was at a camp meeting at El Dorado under a big tree. Don't remember the preacher's name or denomination; only remember that El Dorado had a prisoner there with a big ball of iron chained to his feet and he was converted and the minister helped carry the ball into the river and immersed him. We had a little Sunday school in the log school house. We had no Sunday school literature, just the Bible, learned verses and received cards; sometimes we committed whole chapters to memory. Miss Maggie Vaught conducted the Sunday school and later Mrs. Lizzie Shriver.

It must have been about 1879 that father sold the home, and we moved to El Dorado for a short time; bought and moved to Turkey Creek in 1881; sold and moved to Sycamore Springs, and now will tell a little about Sycamore. I taught the first school in Sycamore. Before we moved here I taught in a room in J. B. Parson's house. Before the term was out the new school house was finished, and that was almost in Mr. Parson's yard. The first postoffice was at Mr. Hubbard's, two



miles south of us. J. B. Parson built the house at the springs in 1870. Frank Donaldson at the same time built a little store just across from the Parsons house and sold it soon to William Shriver, of El Dorado, who sold eats and drinks to the travel. This was the old stage route. Mr. Slover, an old bachelor, built the first log hut on our farm, the first that was built in the township, and before this he built a stone stable on the farm now owned by Mrs. William Hoy. In 1870, George Snively and family, Sylvester Myers and family, came from Ohio, and Mrs. Snively told me that they left one load of household goods at Emporia and brought one load of lumber instead. They came to this stone stable, which had a manger, and it served both families until they came down to the springs and bought. Mr. Myers took eighty acres of school land and Mr. Snively bought one hundred and sixty acres of Mr. Stover. He began to build and sent teams back to Emporia after lumber and goods. In 1871, Philip Harsh and sons came from Ohio and bought out Parsons and Snively. Mr. Snively went west three miles and bought land, and now owns a dry oil well and 800 acres of land.

The old historic sycamore tree which gave name to the township, the first postoffice and church and school, has been blown down. The old house, which has had in time new roof, siding, floor and kitchen addition, is still standing, filled with grain, plows, etc. The old shop or store, whose foundation was not on a rock, has fallen. The Harshes were here only a short time when the postoffice was moved to their house and remained for years, and it was in this house that so many weary travelers were housed and fed. Father Harsh sat and slept in his chair many night to let the stranger have his bed and many times the doors would have to be closed so that the beds made from door to door. The upper story was already full. The man without means to pay was cared for as well as the one with money. It was in this house that the first sermon was preached. Preachers of all denominations were invited to preach. When a preacher came the boys on horses went and told the neighbors and all came. It was hard for Father Harsh to come out here and do without his church, the German Reform.

As I write this and try to think of old times passed, the hard things we had to endure, the awful prairie fires and one terror to all was the chills and fever. We could stand the fever better than we could the chills, because often we were unconscious and did not realize the suffering, but oh the chill! How we did shake, and everybody had them the first, second or sometimes the third year, and now people come and go and we have forgotten the awful ordeal that we used to have to pass through, but we lived through and now in our old age, we are trying to enjoy our homes, telephones, automobiles and just waiting for the old ship to take us on.

Sycamore township was organized July 7, 1871. Its first officers were: J. K. Skinner, trustee; C. H. Hegwinc, treasurer; J. Canfield, clerk. There are no railroads in the township, but we have one graded

and are patiently waiting and watching for the arrival of the "Orient." There are many thousands of acres of grazing land and thousands of cattle are pastured thereon during each pasture season. Cattle are shipped from Texas to the Eastern markets in the spring, unloaded here and pastured during the summer, when they are re-loaded and sent on to market.

Cassoday is the capital of this township and consists of all the accessories that are needed to make up a good, thriving country village, including a bank, blacksmith shop, stores of various kinds, hotel, churches and schools. The township is in the northeast corner of the county, and is eight miles north and south and fourteen miles east and west.

#### TOWANDA TOWNSHIP.

By A. W. Stearns.

On August 23, 1867, Butler county was divided into four townships. Towanda township was bounded as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of section 12, township 27, range 4, west to county line; north to northwest corner of county; east to range line, between ranges 4 and 5; south to place of beginning. The first township officers were appointed on April 14, 1868. They were as follows: Henry Comstock, trustee; John Wentworth, treasurer, and James N. Jones, clerk. The first election in the township was held April 6, 1869, and the following were elected: W. H. Avery, trustee; Henry Comstock, clerk; Milton Snorf, treasurer; Stark Spencer, justice of the peace; Amos Adams, constable.

The first white settler in Towanda township was C. L. Chandler, a native of Ohio, who had been stricken with the gold fever and had joined the forty-niners and crossed the plains to California in quest of the yellow metal. Here he remained until 1857, when, not having acquired the wealth he hoped for, he started on his return home, following part of the way the old Santa Fe Trail. On reaching a point north of what is now Butler county, he chanced to meet a party of Indians, traders, who were returning from a trip through the southern part of their territory of Kansas. Their description of its beauty and apparent adaptability for settlement so interested him that in company with two others leaving the train of returning gold miners, they proceeded south, reaching the head of the Whitewater in September, 1858. Following the stream down to a point near the large spring flowing from the hill on which Towanda is now located, Mr. Chandler was so pleased with the country in general and the Whitewater valley particularly that he decided to settle here. A small log cabin was soon built on the bank of the little creek near the spring, in which he spent the winter of 1858 and 1859. This was the first house build in Towanda township. In the spring of 1859, Mr. Chandler returned to his old home in Ohio after

his wife and two children, coming back to his claim with them after a few months' absence. The family remained here until 1862, when their claim was purchased by J. R. Mead, and they left the country, destination not known.

During the year 1858, and soon after Mr. Chandler's location at the Towanda spring, William Van, from Missouri, with his family, consisting of a wife, three sons and four daughters, arrived on the Whitewater and settled near another large spring a short distance below the Chandler home. Here a log cabin and other buildings were built. The family remained here until 1872, when they sold out and left. One other pioneer of Towanda township, Jay Que Hager, a single man, from Barry county, Michigan, came to the Whitewater the latter part of 1858 and located on what is now the southeast quarter of section 6, in Towanda township, and near the junction of the main Whitewater. A small log cabin was built, in which Mr. Hager lived two or three years, when he left, going to New Mexico, where he died soon after. This comprises all of the 1858 or first settlers of Towanda township. A Mr. Jackson, wife and one child came into the township in 1859. They remained until 1862, when they left, going back East. But little seems to be known concerning them. At this time Kansas was yet a territory. The country was not surveyed and none of the settlers know the numbers of land on which they had located. There were still roving bands of Indians passing through and camping on the river, sometimes remaining there for weeks. While not really hostile, they were not desirable neighbors and caused considerable uneasiness to some of the whites because of their isolated location.

In 1868, a little party of immigrants from Fulton and McDonough counties, Illinois, consisting mostly of relatives and neighbors of the settlers, reached the Whitewater country. They had been preceded the previous year by two pioneer families from Hancock county, Illinois, Harrison Stearns, wife and three children, and Daniel Mosier, wife and six children, who had settled on the Whitewater near Towanda. The party of immigrants consisted of Gilbert Green, wife and eight children; Richmond Jones, wife and two children; J. G. Stearns, wife and four children; John Heath, wife and seven children, and C. Watrous, wife and four children. All of these settled in Towanda township and helped materially to found and build up the present thriving and progressive community. Their descendants are still living here, some of them on the original homesteads taken by their parents.

Probably the great spring which has gushed its torrents of cool water for ages was the cause of the founding of Towanda. Old plainmen and hunters knew of it fifteen years before there was thought of settling the country. In those years, now known to only legend, its volumes of water was greater than now. The Indians knew of it and told the whites of it long before it was seen by them. Here in the wide bottoms of the Whitewater, covered by abundant grass for their ponies,

the Indians pitched their teepees. While the squaws stayed in camp looking after the domestic affairs, the braves were chasing the lordly buffalo that roamed the prairie in countless herds. The Whitewater valley must have enchanted the first white men who beheld it. Its broad and fertile valleys and gentle undulating uplands that let the eye scan miles of its surface, had beauty and attraction irresistible. It is a stream abounding in crystal waters that never fail and fed by many tributaries like itself.

Daniel Cupp seems to have been the earliest comer in the Whitewater valley, at least, the first who came and stayed. That was in 1860, when he and his young wife braved the perils of the frontier and settled upon the farm they still possess and is their home. William Vann in the same year built his cabin further up the Whitewater. Mrs. A. G.



MAIN STREET, TOWANDA, KANS.

Davis now of Benton, is a child of this early comer. Cupp and a few others who came about 1860, have killed buffalo without number in western Butler. S. C. Fulton "struck the country" in 1863, and found them roaming in unnumbered thousands in what is now known as Sedgewick and Sumner counties, and west to the Rocky Mountains. The close of the Civil war left thousands of soldier boys with home ties broken. The government began giving away homesteads. The boys married the girls they left behind them when going to the war and came to Kansas. With each year after 1866 the tide of immigration grew higher until the climax was reached in 1870. Who does not recall the claim hunter, the home hunter, the land agent, the speculator, the scout, the cowboy, and the horseman, "the prairie schooner" that cut across the

country without road, paying no attention to aught save direction? Somebody has remarked that all there was to Kansas at that time was prairie grass, sunshine and wind—an abundance of all.

Early settlers in Towanda township were: 1860—Daniel Cupp and Wright Goodale; 1865—Andy J. and James W. Ralston (still there and prosperous), Dr. J. O. Bugher, who felt cramped at the encroachments of civilization and went to Wyoming a few years ago and died there; 1868—Gilbert Green (who ran the stage and mail route between El Dorado and Wichita), Harrison Stearns, John Heath, S. S. McFarlane, Richard Jones, Dan Mosier, Robert McGuin, J. W. Tucker, Isaac Mooney, Osburn Mooney, Horace Maynard, Simon Brair and Clark Waite, Willis Priest, William McDowell, Dr. William Snider, David Barnett, Dr. R. S. Miller, John and Joshua Shriver, James and Dr. J. D.



F. W. ROBISON'S RESIDENCE, TOWANDA, KANS.

Godfrey and their sister, Miss Nancy; Robert McClure, Lewis Hart, Duncan McLaughlin and Julius Straw, now all deceased except Joshua Shriver, who came in 1869, 1870 or 1871. There were many who came a year or two later. All these met the usual trials, difficulties and hardships incident to frontier life. All were poor. The rich did not care to face the discomforts of new lands. There was many a homesick heart, many sighs for the old homes amid the comforts and conveniences of the civilization they had left. Pioneering is especially hard and distressing on women. They had little to do with. Their duties were circumscribed by unhappy circumstances and conditions and their enforced idleness often led to repining. Many women who left homes where the comforts and even luxuries were plentiful and entered with their husbands into home building upon a raw sod and with limited means have testified that it was a most disheartening effort.

In the seventies and prior, long tedious trips were made to mill, forty, fifty, seventy-five and even one hundred miles. Household necessities and pine lumber were hauled by teams an equal distance. Money was scarce. Interest was high. Labor at first brought good wages, especially that of the carpenter. Log cabins at first were the rule and they were built solid and comfortable. Settlements were along streams almost exclusively prior to 1870. Saw mills were freighted in and worked up native lumber into studding and rough boards. The fare was of the plainest, often consisting of "samp," a hard corn, julled and cracked, and buffalo "jerked" (dried) meat boiled in milk. This was a standard dish, and with corn bread and the sweetness that accompanies a good digestion and hunger, sustained and grew robust men and women. Of the early "kids" yon don't see any that are stunted from such fare. Clothes were of the plainest and would have condemned many a settler in polite society who is now well-to-do or wealthy. Buggies and other road vehicles were rare. The big lumber wagons carried the family or a horse carried man and wife or lover and sweetheart.

#### TOWANDA.

Situated nine miles west and south of El Dorado, on a slightly elevated tract overlooking the Whitewater river, is Towanda, an incorporated town. It can be truthfully said that it is one of the best trading points, one of the nicest little towns, and has some of the most enterprising citizens to be found in Butler county or in Kansas.

In 1870 Rev. Isaac Mooney had surveyed and laid out in town lots, ten acres of what is now the southwest corner of Towanda and thereby became the father of the present bustling little village. Before this date J. R. Mead had established a trading post in the Whitewater valley about a quarter of a mile west of the present town site. At that time Towanda was what might be called the trade center for the country within twenty miles, and stirring indeed were the doings of the old trading post of long ago. It was at that time the division point for two stage lines running over the western plain with headquarters at Emporia and Humboldt. It was also the camping ground for government trains and immigrant wagons on account of the beautiful spring bubbling out of the hill on the west side of town.

The first store building erected on the present town site of Towanda was built by G. W. Baker, in 1871, upon a lot south of the present M. E. church. The lot was given Baker by Isaac Mooney, who was engaged in the same business, as Baker expected to enter in the log house shown elsewhere in this work. The only instance on record where one man furnished another with means of entering into competition with the donor.

The next building was by L. Viets, father of C. L. Viets, of Wichita, and Allie Viets, of Augusta. He afterward sold his stock of goods to William McDowell and moved the building to Augusta. Then came

R. S. Miller and J. H. Dickey, handling hardware and drugs, followed by H. Taylor & Son, general merchandise; J. M. Reed, A. Aikman, G. W. Stewart, blacksmiths and woodworkers, and many others.

Good business buildings have been erected in the past few years. In the residence section wonderful improvement has been made, new houses erected and a general prosperity seems to have taken the town. There is a full two-story building built by the Masons of Towanda. They occupy the upper story for a lodge room, which is nicely furnished for the purpose. The lower story is occupied by Shriver & Glass with a large stock of hardware and implmenets, buggies and



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, TOWANDA, KANS.

wagons, etc. G. W. Moore is the owner and editor of The Towanda News, a newsy home paper. The Knights of Pythias hall is a good brick building, the first floor of which is used for a storeroom and the second for a lodge room. It is owned by the order. The State Bank of Towanda, F. W. Robinson, cashier, and J. C. Kullman, president, is one of the solid institutions of the county and is doing a thriving business. J. C. Kullman, C. B. Sewart and L. C. Hill, general merchandise, and many other lines of business are represented, and all are prosperous.

Towanda township has about ten miles of the Missouri Pacific railway system, a good depot and shipping facilities. More fine draft horses, Holstein cows and other live stock are loaded and unloaded at this station for the Robinsons, Bishops, Girards and others than any other point in the county. Wichita, a town of some note, lies about twenty-five miles south of Towanda. Towanda has always been a good

trading point. It grew slowly. Once it received votes for the county seat. Its early social life was of that limited sort peculiar to people coming together from almost every point of the compass. The first school, the first church organization and other firsts are like unto the beginnings of all new countries. Rev. Isaac Mooney began preaching on his arrival at his new home and kept it up steadily until his death. He bought the splendid valley west of the village from Mead, filed on the one hundred and sixty acres east of it as his homestead, donated the cemetery, platted the town, and gave away lots in encouragement of new comers. He has been fruitful in good works and faithful in every relation.

From the camping place of the Indian and from a trading post, Towanda has grown to a tidy little village. In 1892 it was largely razed by a cyclone, but its people built it anew and better than before. It has two substantial churches; some fine and several substantial residences and many comfortable cottages. It is surrounded by a neat, beautiful and most fertile country. It has a fine brick school building with four departments, is one of the high schools in the county. The Masome lodge, No. 30, shows it to be one of the very oldest in the State; the G. A. R. and its auxiliary, the W. R. C., are represented. Towanda citizens have been active and prominent in county affairs. Hon. Isaac Mooney and his son, V. P. Mooney, Andy Swigett, M. D. Ellis and S. C. Fulton and R. B. Ralston and M. A. Wait have been called to official positions and performed their duties with fidelity and zeal.

#### UNION TOWNSHIP.

This township is in the extreme southeast corner of the county. It is six miles north and south and ten miles east and west, extending into Flint Hills, and contains some of the finest pasture land in the world, as well as some of the best farming lands. Its soil is adapted to and produces abundantly crops of all kinds, including alfalfa and other tame grasses, as well as an abundant supply of the wild or prairie grass.

The records of the county fail to show the date or organization of Union township. They do show, however, that the citizens of Union township voted at the general election held in November, 1871, and that the following township officers were elected at the election held in April, 1872: George Sherar, trustee; J. A. McGinnis, treasurer; H. M. Lemon, clerk; Benjamin \_\_\_\_\_, justice of the peace; George Messick, constable. Among the earliest settlers of the township, in addition to the above, were J. S. McKee, Alvin Proisen, William and D. L. Sherar, T. F. Ferguson, William Van Meter, Milo Nance and many others.

The township is noted for its live stock and hay industries. Many cattle are pastured, fed and marketed from this place with an immense amount of prairie hay shipped out each year. Latham is a vigorous



little town laid out in 1885. It is on a branch of the Frisco railway. There is about ten miles of the railway in the township. Atlanta is a small station in the southern part of the county. Latham has a population of 350 with practically all line of business represented: Bank, J. P. Garnett, president, and Ed Rankin, cashier; grocery, L. R. Masters & Co.; lumber, E. A. Riley; hotel, James Gibson; garage, livery, creamery, churches, schools, newspaper, "The Mirror," by H. W. Hendrick, and all other lines necessary to make a good, pleasant place in which to live or engage in business.

### WALNUT TOWNSHIP.

By W. C. Snodgrass.

I purpose to write a short history of Walnut township from the time of the red man and buffalo to the present time. This will cover a period of half a century, from 1866 to 1916. The facts narrated will be those gleaned from the storehouse of memories, personal experiences and observations of those still living who helped to make that history.

And we feel sure that our short record of our little garden spot of thirty-six square miles of God's footstool, with its thorns, thistles and flowers will show that our people have a right to be proud of their achievements. They have developed to a rich fruition in this part of the Master's vineyard. We have made the "two blades of grass grow where only one grew before." We have done this in spite of drought, hot winds, storms, floods, grasshoppers, chintz bugs, elephant bugs, the "rain maker" and his fuse, and the politician.

The chintz bug eats the farmer's grain,  
The bee moth spoils his honey,  
The bed bug fills him full of pain,  
And the humbug gets his money.

Walnut township was formed out of that part of the public domain known as the "Twenty Mile Strip." It was ceded to the general government by the Osage Indians on September 19, 1865. This land was known legally as the Osage Trust Lands. It was surveyed and opened up to settlement by the government a year or two later at \$1.25 per acre. Each settler could take not to exceed 160 acres. He had to live on his land at least six months and make certain improvements, in the way of breaking of the prairie and buildings.

At first, August 23, 1867, Walnut township, by act of the board of county commissioners, comprised a strip across the south part of the county sixteen miles wide. At the election, November 5, 1867, Peter Harpool was elected justice of the peace. He received seven votes. Benton Kramer was elected constable with seven votes. Harpool was

(15)

club-footed, but much of a man physically. It was currently reported that when he fought he got on his knees. He had for his homestead the northeast 3-29-4. It is now owned by Elroy Warner, who has a fine residence where Peter had his cabin.

This cabin was unusually far from the timber. It was out on the prairie nearly a half mile from the river—Little Walnut. Dave Kramer, a brother of Bent, owned the quarter west of Harpool's and "put on style" by building a two-story box house. The house fell down about five years ago and was moved off by the present owner of the land, M. T. Minor. The yard fence (hedge) was grubbed up last winter (1915) by M. J. Philips and Vance Glaze. Thus disappeared one of the ancient landmarks. Charlie Durham (deceased), of Douglass, narrated that it was at this house they held, on Saturday night of each week, one of a series of dances, commencing at Bill Groves', below Rock, Cowley county. He said the "gents" were always fully booted, spurred and armed with the regulation "six-shooters." The ladies were very beautiful and bixom, but not too timid or shy. Many of them afterward became the wives of the pioneers. Some of their offspring live in Walnut township today. Benton Kramer "proved up" on a claim at the mouth of Hickory creek and sold it to N. M. A. Withrow, whose widow, Mary A. Withrow, still owns it.

The first township election was held in April, 1868. The township elections were held then in the spring instead of as now at the time of the general elections in November. At this election William H. Edsell was elected trustee; John Fetterman, clerk; J. W. Crawford, treasurer. Edsell owned the southeast 26-28-4, now owned by Schoeb.

On March 11, 1873, a petition to organize Walnut City township, comprising the territory known as town 28, range 4, east, was granted. The election to be held in Walnut City. At this election, April, 1873, William Potter was elected trustee; M. C. Robbins, treasurer; Thomas Purcell, clerk; W. S. Waters and John C. Riley, justices of the peace, and A. J. Hughes and J. P. Bare, constables. On July 8, 1873, a petition to change the name of Walnut City township to Walnut, striking out the word city, was granted by the board of county commissioners.

Thus the civil, or municipal, township of Walnut as now known and remembered by the oldest residents, became identical with the congressional township legally described as township 28 south, range 4 east. It is of this six miles square of territory I write. From the time of the organization of the township in March, 1873, we have a fairly complete book record of the official business of the township. Part of the old first set of township record books are still in use and show many names of old residents who "did the township business" for Walnut. It is not as big a territory as Europe and its story possibly not as big a theme. But its people have had their trials and tribulations, too. A Kansas township is probably the most striking miniature example of a representative democracy.

The township is an undulating prairie with a general slope to the south. In the spring, when it is covered with its carpet of green, it is a beautiful sight. Sunshine and shadow flitting over the prairie, before the coming of the unkept and unsightly hedge and barbed wire fences, was a sight to fill one with delight and emotion. It resembled the waves of the ocean. There are three streams crossing the township. The Big Walnut crosses it from north to south, on an average of about a mile west of the center. The valley is probably a mile wide and is very fertile. Little Walnut crosses the southeast corner of the township from northeast to southwest. The valley land will average a half mile in width. Four Mile Creek flows into the Big Walnut. The valley is rich and productive. The streams are all fringed with timber, which was much used by the early settlers for building purposes; but now only for fire wood and fence posts. Walnut logs are still shipped out to Eastern markets. Between the valleys of these streams and the upland there is generally an outcropping, or ledge, of limestone. It is good building material and good railroad ballast. There has been a large railroad rock crusher operated in the township for several years. There are very few good springs in the township. Probably one should be mentioned. It is on the southeast 35-28-4. The place is now owned by G. W. Brooks, who takes great interest in his spring and his fine garden he raises every year along the spring branch. This garden is becoming almost a neighborhood affair, owing to the great generosity of Mr. Brooks. Mr. Brooks has installed a hydraulic ram for water power for his house.

It is very probable that the buffalo and the Indian left Walnut township about the same time. The buffalo very likely went in 1864 and 1865. The Indian followed in a year or two, 1865 and 1866. Observations made in 1869 and 1870 warrant these conclusions. There were numerous buffalo horns and bones in a good state of preservation to be picked up on the "buffalo wallers," alkali spots where the buffalo would go to salt themselves. There were forks, poles, bark and some cooking utensils to be found where the Indian's wigwam was on the south side of the northeast quarter of section 35-28-4. The large elm trees had the bark peeled as high as a man could reach from one side of the tree, but never clear around. The Indian must have loved trees. The line of cutting was regular and V-shaped. So it must have been cut by cross licks with a tomahawk. Where this wigwam stood was a patch of ground of three or four acres which was cultivated and enclosed by a log fence, something on the style of the old "staked and ridged" fence. The river helped to enclose the patch of low ground, which was entirely surrounded by timber. This little patch of rich low ground is still known as the "Indian field." Straggling Indian trappers were frequently met with in 1868, 1869 and 1870. The pioneers relate many incidents of their experiences in meeting these roving hunters and trappers. Sometimes both Indian and pioneer were surprised.

The pioneer, "One who goes before to remove obstructions or prepare the way for another," came in 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1869, to bid the Indian goodbye. He came from the East North and South. He cut the trees, not the bark, and replaced the wigwam with the log cabin. Like the Indian, he built his hut in or near the timber along the river, often near the little "Indian field." He was not yet ready or prepared to turn the prairie sod. He planted his Indian field to corn and looked after his game. Game, such as deer, antelope, turkey, prairie chicken, quail and other varieties common today, were very plentiful. Fish were fine and plentiful and could be seen in the streams much plainer than now. The streams were clearer because the rains did not carry the soil hen, as now, into them. There are a few, very few, of these pioneers still living in Butler county and still owning their homesteads. But most of them, like the buffalo and Indians, have wandered away to other fields. Those who are left can tell many rich and interesting experiences. I hope many of them will contribute their experiences to the Butler County History.

Probably the two oldest pioneers, in point of settlement, who still own their old homes in Walnut township are George W. Long and Mrs. Lou Kirkpatrick. They both now live in Augusta. Mr. Long settled on the Big Walnut in 1867 and doubtless knew all the pioneers of Walnut township. He helped Louis Booth to build his cabin, just southwest of where Gordon now is, in 1867. Mrs. Kirkpatrick is a daughter of "Uncle" Billy Black, who settled with his family of boys and girls on what is now known as the Blood land. It is just west of Gordon on the Big Walnut. "Uncle Billy" (William Craft Black) came to Walnut township with his family in the spring of 1868. Some of his sons and daughters were then married and had families. His children were Tom, Dave, Mrs. Andy Crawford, Sarah J., Lou, Abe, Willie and Crit. He and two sons and one daughter took four quarters of land on the Big Walnut, just west of Gordon. It was then, and is now, the finest body of land in Walnut township. It is now the most valuable section of land in Butler county, maybe, cities not counted, in Kansas. This "big hearted pioneer" and good man, who was striving for his children, lost his worldly inheritance—land—by that noble virtue of goodness. His friends (?) played him false. They became rich. He became poor. He lost all, except his energy and determination to labor and strive on honorably to the end. Surely history does repeat itself; but I am not allowed the space here to repeat the old, old story of Lazarus and Dives.

Louis Booth and George Booth built their cabin on the west, southwest and southwest of 28-28-4. This land is still known as the Booth place by the old settlers. It is also spoken of as the Cox farm. In November, 1870, "Judge Lynch" decided that the Booths, Jim Smith (Gillpin) and Jack Corbin were undesirable citizens. So they were convicted and executed. Smith was shot at a ford in the middle of Little Walnut, just northeast of Douglass, called the "Slayton ford." Corbin and the

Booths were taken from the Booth cabin, and a little way from the cabin Corbin was hung and the Booths were shot. Some say the four (Smith, Corbin, George Booth and Louis Booth) were all buried on what is now the Hayes farm, about a quarter of a mile southwest of the Gordon depot. Mrs. L. Kirkpatrick, who attended the burial, gives a very interesting narrative of the affair. She says the four bodies were buried in four home-made coffins in two graves—the two Booth brothers in one and Corbin and Smith in the other. Another report is that Louis Booth's wife took his remains to Emporia for interment. There was great excitement and much bitter feeling over this lynching for several years.

George B. Green was one of the pioneers who settled on the north-east quarter 35-28-4 on the Little Walnut. Green settled here in 1867 or 1868. He bought out a Dutchman who had lost three children here and became dissatisfied. The children were buried a little distance east of the cabin under a spreading oak tree, near the center of what is now called the "Cabin Field." The graves were enclosed by a rail pen. Afterward the tree fell down. In the clear up the brush and rail pen were burned, and all traces of the graves were lost. Green was an ex-Confederate soldier, but he never told it in the "John Brown State" until he met some Southern "sympathizers." He considered discretion the better part of valor. He sold his place to W. J. Snodgrass in October, 1869, giving a warranty deed November 17th, acknowledged before C. H. Lamb, justice of the peace. It was recorded by W. A. Sallee, register of deeds. The patent was issued November 1, 1870, by the United States government. U. S. Grant signed the patent as President of the United States. The number of the patent is 189; probably it was the first quarter of land deeded in the township. It has very likely paid more taxes than any other one hundred and sixty acres in the township. Green went to Thirty Mile Strip and got a nicer place than the one he sold. From the appearance of the Broke land and the improvements, the Dutchman must have settled this quarter in 1866 or 1867. W. J. Snodgrass was both pioneer and early settler. In the fall of 1869 he with two companions, James Yowell and Dr. Beauford Averitt, landed at Abilene, Kansas, from Marion county, Kentucky. They bought three ponies, saddles and bridles and struck out to the southeast. The first place they stopped at in Walnut was at Dave Black's, with whom they stayed all night. They met Green the same day they stopped at Black's, who told them he wanted to sell his place. So the next day they went over to see him and stayed all night with him. On account of the fertility of the soil and abundance of timber, one hundred acres, they all liked the place very much, and Snodgrass bought the place for \$1,250. Future events proved the wisdom of the purchase. During the hard times of the early seventies, when U. S. Grant was President, Snodgrass at one time sold the saw timber for \$1,500 and had the tops or laps left, which were cut into cord wood and

sold to school districts and prairie settlers for fire wood. And wood posts, fire wood and walnut logs have been sold off this quarter of land from 1870 to 1916. Snodgrass went back to Kentucky, sold out and moved his family here in the summer of 1870. He came by way of boat from Louisville to Kansas City. From Kansas City he came by teams and wagons. The first man he got acquainted with in Butler county on this move was Uncle John Teeters. Teeters was much attracted by a fine horse, and when he learned that Snodgrass was a Kentuckian he would have him go by and camp at his place. Teeters was a Virginian. And the gratitude of the Kentuckian has never forgotten the unbonded hospitality of the Virginian.

Snodgrass found it hard picking in the early days. With a wife, six small children, two nieces and a nephew, it kept a fellow stirring and thinking. Bacon at thirty-six cents per pound and money at thirty-six per cent. were two hard propositions to face. Shakespeare wrote of Shylock. Snodgrass once, in moments of desperation, after giving up thirty-six per cent., wrote the following epitaph for the early banker:

"Here lies thirty-six per cent.,  
The more he got the more he lent,  
The more he got the more he craved,  
Great God! can such a man be saved?"

Soon after, in 1872 and 1873, under the hero Grant, he was selling fat cows at \$12.00 and \$14.00. Of course, he quit eating bacon and shortened the biscuits with tallow. He moved into the cabin on June 27, 1870. He went to work and got out saw logs, hauled them to the mill and sawed lumber for a frame house, which he erected on north 2, south 2, northwest 35-28-4. This eighty acres and the one north, south 2, southwest 26-28-4, was his homestead. The carpenters induced him to sell his native finishing lumber and go to Emporia and buy pine. So this house was built of native frame and pine finishing lumber. The oak sills were hewn by hand. This was the first frame residence built in Walnut township. The Snodgrass family moved into it on November 27, 1870. The family here grew from six to eleven children. Mr. Snodgrass has always taken great pride in fine stock. He brought some good horses here with him. He soon brought in thoroughbred Berkshire hogs. He has handled fine sheep quite extensively. For many years he owned and exhibited at the State and Oklahoma fairs one of the finest Shorthorn herds of the State. He sold them at Wichita in February, 1907. Old age and poor health compelled him to quit the live stock business. There is not much question but what he has paid more taxes than any man, living or dead, in Walnut township. He has never asked for nor held a public salaried office in Kansas. The township records show that he has never drawn a cent of the public money, although he paid much of it into the till. He has always been a taxpayer,

never a tax eater. He still lives on the place he homesteaded. It is one of the very few homesteads of Walnut that the mortgage, grasshoppers or taxes didn't get.

While the early settler was striving to build his home and to feed, clothe and shelter his children, he did not neglect to provide for their education. He realized that a trained mind was a necessary corollary of a robust physical manhood. So he began to organize districts and to build school houses. Probably the first school taught in the township was taught by Miss Jennie Blakey, and the second by Miss Alice Yowell, in 1872. These two terms were taught in a "claim house." This was the house built by James Yowell across the line to hold two claims—the northwest quarter of 35 and the northeast of 34. The house was long enough for two rooms, but the partition was never put in. It was used for a school house and church. The first preliminary meetings for organizing District 64 and building the school house were held in this house and at the residence of W. J. Snodgrass. Some wanted to build by subscription, some by voting bonds. The bond idea carried. So our District 64 school house was built of native frame lumber and pine finishing lumber, in 1873. There was a preacher on the school board and he planned to dedicate the new school house with one of his masterful sermons and a big meeting. The young worldly patrons planned very differently. They wanted a jolly good dance. The carpenter, J. C. Mitchell, who was an Englishman and a bachelor, held the keys to the house. He lived in a dug-out a quarter of a mile from the school house. So the young worldly minded patrons, or rather a few young men, representatives of theirs, went to Mitchell's dug-out and boosted James D. Yowell, a small boy, through the window and had him to get the keys out of the bachelor's pockets. With these they proceeded to the school house, to open up and let the throng, assembled from ten miles around, in. The crowd, gents and ladies, fiddler and callers, were all ready. The only necessary preliminaries—opening the door—being over, the dance commenced at once. And it was hilarious from start to finish. At one time they thought they heard the deacon and board coming; but some brave Apollo shouted:

On with the dance! let joy be unconfined,  
It is not the cannon's opening roar,  
It is but our gay light hearted Guyot,  
Shouting and tripping the light fantastic toe.

Salute your partner, first to the right, next to the left, and then to the one which you like best. All swing and promenade and rest. Some wanted to "schottische," some to "waltz," some to "heal and toe," some to "Virginia reel" and some the "square," but the church member girls said Dan Tucker or Weevily Wheat. So some guy, who was sweet on one of the church girls, started up:

"Come down this way with your "Weevily Wheat,"  
 Come down this way with your barley,  
 Come down this way with your "Weevily Wheat"  
 And bake a cake for Charlie.  
 Oh! Charlie he's a lovely lad,  
 Oh! Charlie he's a dandy,  
 Oh! Charlie he's a lovely lad  
 Who feeds those girls on candy.  
 We won't have none of your "Weevily Wheat,"  
 We won't have none of your barley  
 To bake a cake for Charlie.

Apollo broke forth with:

Old Dan Tucker, he came from town,  
 Saluting the ladies all around;  
 First to the right, then to the left,  
 Then to the one which he likes best.  
 Get out of the way for "Old Dan Tucker,"  
 Get out of the way for "Old Dan Tucker."

Then some laggard chimed in: "Shoot the buffalo," but he was quickly squelched in the general shout of, "Let us have the square and the good old swing." And so the "die was cast," and the Rubicon was crossed and the landing made at early daybreak. The revelers all went home singing:

"We danced all night and a hole in the stocking;  
 We danced all night and the heel kept a rocking."

There was much talk of prosecutions for desecrating the school house. The preacher never preached in it. He said, "The devil got in before the Lord." But the deacon felt different about his wife. He was perfectly willing and, in fact, helped to hire her, at an exorbitant price, to teach in this habitation of "Satan." No wonder this school house was named "Tempest." It is too early in time to speak of the tragedies which have happened at "Tempest." It might cause the Innocents to suffer. It might cause even the "Rocks of Rome to arise and mutiny." I will not speak of some of the teachers of bad character who were imposed on the children of this school, through spite. The old school house still stands, but now a half mile northeast of where it was built in the northwest corner of the southeast 26-28-4.

There was much talk of railroads in the seventies; but it did not seem to take much tangible form until the early eighties. On April 24, C. H. Kurtz was paid for printing railroad proposition and election proclamation of February 21, 1880, \$15.00. W. H. Adams, G. W.



Long and John Van Arsdell, judges; W. H. Curry and J. L. Van Arsdell were clerks at this election. This was for the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad Company. On March 8, this railroad company paid into the township treasury, \$30.00 for expenses of said election. They acted very "white."

The story of the present Santa Fe is entirely different. The township has "had it" with them from start to finish. It is too much to tell in detail. I will mention a few things. On February 1, 1880, there was an election held to vote \$10,000 in bonds for \$10,000 worth of stock in the F. E. W. V. railroad. The proposition lost. It was either a tie or defeat. On April 12, 1881, they tried it again. And the old settlers say that with some bribed votes the proposition carried by three or four votes. The township talked of contesting, but did not. In August of the same year the "wise ones" came down to the township and told them how likely the township was to get in bad by holding stock in a railroad that would go into the hands of a receiver. But the railroad would be good to them and take the stock off of their hands. So the township board had the township treasurer to make the following entry: "Aug. 9, 1881; Rec'd of the F. E. W. V. R. Co. for Ten Thousand Dollars' worth of Stock in said R. R. the sum of \$1.00. July 30th, 1881; C. H. Kutz for printing R. R. Prop. of Apr. 12, 1881, \$25.00. W. H. H. Adams, Trustee, J. K. Carr, Treas, and Jas L. VanArsdell, clerk, were the township board at this time. In the latter part of 1883, or the early part of 1884, the railroad moved away the depot. The township instituted suit. The township record of January 26, 1884, shows the following entries: Paid \$15.00 to T. O. Shinn to deposit in court, \$15.00; paid to T. O. Shinn and Leland, \$50.00; paid to W. H. H. Adams for attending to railroad suit, \$15.00; paid to T. O. Shinn, \$200. The township won. The railroad paid the cost of the suit and put up another depot. Afterwards, about 1888, the railroad started to close the depot. The township was ready for another suit, so they did not close it.

Our railroad bonds were "twenty thirties." That is, they could be paid in twenty years, but could not run longer than thirty years. They drew seven per cent. So the yearly interest for our township was \$700.00. This, for many years, was about twice all our other expenses. It is a problem what these bonds did cost us. If they had all been paid (which they were not) at the end of twenty years, the interest would have amounted to \$14,000. The principal and interest would have been \$24,000. On June 30, 1900, some bond refunding attorneys from Topeka rounded up our township board into a "special meeting" and got them to "refund" our "outstanding bonds." They "showed" the board what a "good deal" it would be to give up the old seven per cent bonds and issue new four and a half per cent bonds. They never mentioned it to the board that the township had the right to pay off all these bonds the next year—1901. So the board took the "bait" and agreed to pay \$1,800 for the deal.

The succeeding township board, E. B. Alexander trustee, W. H. Dare clerk, and W. C. Snodgrass treasurer, employed a lawyer and busted the deal, to the great chagrin of the bond attorneys. There was one bond holder who tried to hold on to his good seven per cent. He contended that our county treasurer did not get the money to the fiscal agency in New York in time. This contention ran on for several years. I think it was just \$500 bond. The board employed an attorney who got it settled without a law suit. I think it was a wise suggestion that township boards should be leery of special meetings. The machinations and assiduous cries of these public-spirited, patriotic promoters will often hypnotize the most sagacious board.

The progress and prosperity of the township has been marked, steady and incessant. Some of our land has risen in value from \$1.25 to \$1000 per acre. The slow patient ox, who turned the first sod and hauled the first house and first food, has been replaced with the draft horse, the standard bred, the motor car and the automobile. The few little fields of corn, wheat and potatoes have been multiplied into many large ones of these cereals, and kafir, alfalfa, cane, milo maize, sweet clover, etc. The Longhorn has given way to the Shorthorn; the broncho to the thoroughbred; the razorback to the pure bred. The hen has made her respectful bow to the incubator and gone off to scratch for more worms and to lay more eggs. The farmer does not pick dollars off of trees. He gathers them up after the hens. The little honey bee has been helped, too, with foundation comb. The weekly mail, carried by your neighbors when they thought of it, now comes every day to your door. The telephone is in every house. It connects you with the telegraph and all parts of the habitable world. The phonograph gives you in your own homes, music, orations, operas, band concerts, and sings the baby to sleep. Where E. A. Cease could count, from his house to the center of Walnut township, his hundred head of cattle grazing on the prairie, his grandson, H. E. Cease, can now, from the same spot, see the first oil well brought in in Butler county and count one hundred oil and gas wells.

And mother earth has just begun to give us from her bowels her hidden wealth. This new Eureka has made some farmers rich over night. It is like the story of Aladdin and his lamp. These farmers have rented their farms and moved to town, where they can rest on the shady side and give their children better educational advantages. Space forbids a detailed oil and gas history of Walnut township. Oil and gas men claim that it is the richest pool in the State. Every farmer in the township feels that he has plenty of oil and gas on his farm.

The boom has filled our township with strangers. It seems to have opened new springs of energy and action. Instead of talking weather, crops, live stock, etc., they talk oil, gas, wells, deep tests, Mississippi lime, tanks, pipe lines., etc. And the speculators, promoters and townsite men are here. Our town Gordon is to have an

addition—"Gordon Heights"—and is destined to become a city. Even the railroad no longer wants to move out. It is taking on new life and bustle. It is changing and improving the station and putting in more trackage. It has also put on an extra passenger train each way.

I hope the readers of this brief history of Walnut township will find some pleasure and satisfaction in its perusal. If they do I will feel amply rewarded for my effort, then, both reader and writer will be happy. Where two souls beat in sympathy and unison, there is a feast of reason and flow of soul that makes the whole world akin. So, without apology, vain regrets are useless repining, I submit this to your lenient and charitable consideration.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### POLITICAL HISTORY.

EARLY POLITICAL VIEWS—JUDICIAL DISTRICTS—FIRST ELECTION—CHARACTER OF OFFICERS—FIRST TOWNSHIP OFFICERS—AN INDEPENDENT PARTY—FIRST CONVENTIONS—POLITICAL PARTIES—FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND POPULISM—FREE SILVER PARTY—LAST ELECTION—SENATORS—REPRESENTATIVES—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—COUNTY CLERKS—COUNTY TREASURERS—COUNTY ATTORNEYS—SHERIFFS—CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURT—REGISTERS OF DEEDS—PROBATE JUDGES—SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—COUNTY SURVEYORS—COUNTY ASSESSORS—COUNTY HEALTH OFFICERS.

Politics, modern politics, as such, were an unknown commodity (I use the word advisedly) in the early settlement of Butler county. Elections coming on and being held soon after the close of the war, men, on both sides, were apt to vote as "they shot," or as with the side with which they were in sympathy during the war. There being at this time but two political parties, the Republican and Democratic, and a majority of the early settlers, having as a rule come from the Northern and Eastern States, their sympathies were naturally with the Northern army, consequently, the vote was in favor of the Republicans and remained so for many years, during which time a nomination on the Republican ticket was equal to an election. While this was true, yet the men of those days were true Kansans, and recognized the right of their neighbors to think and vote as their conscience dictated, and as they believed to be right, and very seldom was the question of political preference made a personal one. Of course, then as now, they probably thought it strange that such a good neighbor should show such poor judgment as to vote a different ticket from what they themselves did; but they continued to loan and borrow from each other and help each other in every way possible, notwithstanding their differences in political faith. Argue and talk politics? Certainly at times arguments and talk ending then, as now, each more than ever convinced of his own opinions and the blindness of his neighbor. Of course, they went to the polls, attended the election, and voted as though upon their ballot depended the result of the election, and returned to their homes with a consciousness of having done their duty. They were not here for political purposes or for amusement; theirs, the more serious

business of life, establishing homes, taming the prairies, and looking after the welfare and comfort of those depending upon them. The day of the political philosopher had not yet arrived. The man with the elongated neck, which had haired over and which he used for, or in lieu of, a head, had not yet entered upon the business of saving the country or instructing the sovereign squats how to vote, but he was in embryo and in due time came forth to enlighten the voter.

One of the earliest items in Butler county's political history was the apportionment of the State into judicial districts. Butler, Hunter, Greenwood, Madison, Weller, Coffey, Anderson and Allen constituted the thirteenth district. The number of the judicial district of which Butler county has formed a part has been changed several times since that time, but is today a part of the thirteenth district. In August, 1857, Samuel L. Addie was elected from the above territory to the Territorial Senate, and C. Columbia to the House. In October, 1857, Madison and Butler polled sixty-nine free state and seven democratic votes. In December, 1857, an election was held under the Lecompton Constitution, but no return was made from Butler county. In March, 1857, Samuel Stewart was elected delegate to the Minneola convention, and in August, 1858, an election was held at the old El Dorado town site on the Lecompton Constitution. The entire vote (twenty-three) polled was cast against this infamous platform. In April, 1859, there were cast in Butler county, fifteen votes for the Wyandotte Constitution and two against it. On November 8, 1859, there were forty-eight votes cast for Congressman, Perrott, Republican, receiving forty-seven, and Johnson, Democrat, receiving one. J. C. Lambdin was elected member of the Territorial Council at the same election. In May, 1858, an election was held in Butler county on the adoption of the Free State Constitution. The election was held north of Chelsea, under some spreading oak, still standing between the Buchanan and McDaniels farms. No box could be found out of which a ballot box could be made. A big coffee mill was furnished by Mrs. Woodruff. This had a drawer which was drawn out and the ballots put in and the drawer closed until the next vote was ready to be deposited. About one hundred votes were cast. The first session of the Legislature after admission as a State was convened March 26, 1861. Butler county was represented by P. G. D. Morton, of Chelsea, then the county seat. J. R. Lambdin, of Chelsea, was journal clerk of the House. The only State officers furnished Butler county, in so far as I remember, was W. H. Biddle, State Treasurer, and W. F. Benson, the present Bank Commissioner of the State.

Butler county has been very fortunate in the selection of its county officers, with perhaps two or three exceptions. Each and every officer has endeavored to perform the duties required of him, and all have left their offices, at the close of their respective terms retaining the confidence and respect of their people. Two officers, in the years that are

past, holding clerical position and very similar in their tastes, physical and moral makeup, weak in will power, but thirsting after the flesh pots of Egypt, were accused of betraying the trust placed upon them and left the county for the county's good. One was unsuccessfully prosecuted and the other left his bondsmen to make good his deficits. Both are now deceased. These were the only ones that were caught. There is one other circumstance connected with one of the county officers that deserves mention, that of the county treasurer, Archibald Ellis, the father of our esteemed citizens, John Ellis and Mrs. M. B. Coggeshall. At the close of his term as treasurer in 1873, upon a settlement with the board of county commissioners, preparatory to turning his office over to his successor, Joseph Williams, they found there was due to the county a certain sum of money, upon which he asked them if they were sure that it was the amount due, and if they would be satisfied with that sum. They replied that was all they were entitled to. He gave them the amount asked for and then added the sum of about \$3,400, saying that amount was then in the office; it did not belong to him, but to the county, and demanded that they receive it, which they finally did. They gave him a receipt therefor, but were unable to tell afterwards where it came from or belonged. As a matter of fact, that same \$3,400 became a part of the funds out of which the present court house was constructed. Had Diogenese been in search here for an honest man he could have dispensed with his lantern.

The first recorded election was held November 1, 1863. The number of votes is not given, but the following were declared to have received the highest number of votes cast: Robert Crozier, chief justice; A. L. Howard, district attorney; G. T. Donaldson, representative; Henry Martin, probate judge; J. T. Goodall, sheriff; M. Vaught, county clerk and registrar of deeds; T. W. Satchell, county treasurer; Judson Mabe, county assessor; H. G. Branson, D. Lewellyn, S. P. Johnson, county commissioners; Henry Martin, S. P. Myers, justices of the peace; C. C. Pratt, John B. Johnson, constables.

Township Officers.—April 5, 1864: Samuel Fulton, justice of the peace; John Lawton, Silas T. Howell, constables; William Townsley, trustee; C. L. Chandler, overseer. There is no record of any Presidential election in 1864, but on November 4, 1865, the following officers were elected: M. Stubbs, state Senator; D. L. McCabe, representative. The first vote for Governor was cast on November 6, 1866, with the following results: Samuel J. Crawford, Republican, sixty-one votes; J. S. McDowell, Democrat, twenty-six votes. Samuel J. Crawford was the father of the present Mrs. Arthur Capper. In November, 1872, the following electoral votes were cast for President: U. S. Grant, Republican, 983; Horace Greeley, Liberal Republican and Democrat, 486. Up to this time no convention or called meeting of the voters had been held. The names of the parties for whom votes had been cast were placed upon the ballots by some one suggesting them, sort of windfalls or

hand-picked, or by a few accepting or assuming the responsibility of leadership of certain factions and advising their followers to vote as directed and as they themselves did. The question then upon which the people differed related to the division of the county and the removal of the county seat. There were questions of business, rather than of politics and all that the records of the county show in relation thereto are set forth in another portion of this work.

During the summer and fall of 1873, a mass convention of the people was called, at whose suggestion it is now unknown, but it is stated on good authority that the first public suggestion came from J. R. Ward and W. H. Litson, of Benton township, they giving as a reason that the farmer of the county was being overlooked in the distribution of official patronage. Someone requested that the same be done, to meet at the Sutton Branch school house, about three miles southwest of El Dorado. There may have been, and undoubtedly were, some politicians there, but no politics; they were there to do, on the surface, at least, what was for the best interest of the county and to nominate candidates for different county offices, including a representative to the Legislature. Never having seen a convention of this or any other kind, nor even having heard of one, the writer attended, but took no part therein, and some of the things which happened are very well remembered. The men were practically all strangers to me, but I now recall that among them I met for the first time, Capt. M. Guinty, of northwest Butler, who came down from his old claim, which he still owns; Dr. H. D. Hill, of Augusta; Major Joe L. Ferguson, of Spring township; J. E. Anderson, afterward sheriff; Uncle Joe Williams, Vincent Brown and many others. I have no recollection who the officers of the convention were, but peace and harmony appeared to prevail and the ticket they nominated was all elected, as I now remember.

Some one placed the name of Major Joe L. Ferguson in nomination for the legislature. The motion was seconded and he was nominated practically without opposition, and upon being called for, came forward and said: "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the convention, I am deeply grateful and more than appreciate the honor you have attempted to confer upon me. I would esteem it as one of the greatest privileges and one of the proudest acts of my life to represent this great county of Butler in the legislature of the State; but, gentlemen, while it may be somewhat humiliating for me to say so, yet for financial reasons, strong ones, believe me, I am compelled to decline the honor. I am simply so poor you could not hear me walk through dry leaves." His decision was final and Dr. H. D. Hill was nominated in his stead and was elected. The balance of the ticket nominated was as follows: Joseph Williams, county treasurer; D. L. Knowles, register of deeds; James E. Anderson, sheriff; Vincent Brown, county clerk; J. W. Weimer, surveyor; William Snyder, coroner; J. A. McGinnis, county commissioner first district; E. B. Brainard, county commissioner, second

district; E. W. Clifford, county commissioner, third district. Some one cut a plug of "Battle Ax;" Uncle Jimmy Anderson handed a box of "see-gars" in through the window, an outsider opened a bucket of water and the meeting adjourned. Of course, there was opposition to this ticket, but it was so divided that the result was the election as above.

The first political convention for the nomination of candidates for the various offices was called and held in the summer of 1875 by the Republican party, followed by the Democratic and other parties up to the year 1882, when the primary, or, as it was called, "The Crawford County System," was adopted. This manner or rule of making nominations remained in vogue until 1888, when the people became dissatisfied with that system, claiming, and with good grounds therefor, that all nominations were given to the parties living in the cities, and that the rural districts were not getting their share of the offices; that the acquaintance of the city candidate with the voter of the county over his country competitor gave him too great an advantage, and the convention system was again adopted and remained until the law provided for the primary system of making nominations.

The first party to put a ticket in the field in opposition to the Republican and Democratic parties was the Greenback party in 1881, their principal candidates being W. P. Flenner for county clerk and O. Council for register of deeds. They polled in this election about twelve per cent. of the entire vote cast and remained in the political field to a greater or less extent until after the election of 1887.

In the year 1888, in addition to the two old parties, there was offered to the voters an opportunity to vote for candidates on the Union Labor or the Prohibition tickets. These parties carried tickets during that and the following year, 1889, when the Union Labor party dropped out. The Prohibitionists remain to some extent, at least, until the present time. Then came the Alliance, Populist or Peoples party in 1890.

Some one, said to be from one of the Southern States, came into the county organizing the farmers into the Farmers' Alliance, and it was currently reported, while on his mission, he dropped or left a little of the political leaven, leaven and a half or peradventure leaven and three-quarters of Populism. However, this may be, it was something that worked, worked day and night, Sundays and week days; sunshine or storm, it worked, always worked, active, diligent and persevering; still it worked, the most infectious, contagious, epidemic ever known to mankind. The whole body politic became infected. Democrats disappeared without a struggle, disappeared as does the pumpkin pie in the maw of a hungry school boy, or as does the hobo when offered work. There were scarcely enough Republicans left to make a quorum or adjourn a meeting. The movement finally culminated in a stupendous county rally in El Dorado in the fall of 1892, the people coming together by common impulse from every village, hamlet and



farm. In earnest, dead earnest, in their opinion something was wrong, radically wrong, with our political system (and who now can say they were entirely mistaken), and it became their duty to rectify that wrong, the leaven still working, whenever material could be found upon which to work. They were to meet on Walnut Hill, at the west end of Central avenue to commence their march. They gathered on that day, spreading out over the territory between there and Towanda and about noon started down the avenue, drums beating, horns tooting, flags and streamers flying from vehicles of all kinds and descriptions; from the best in the county to the caricature of the worst of the two old political parties; singing, "Goodbye, Old Parties. Goodbye." Still it worked and on they came; came by companies, by regiments, by brigades, by battalions; came as a whole army comes, and kept coming. A few old-line Democrats stood on the street corners with a sickly grin or a diabolical leer on their faces. The Republicans, what were left, going into their back rooms, pulling down the blinds and closing the doors until driven forth for fresh air, would come out, get a sight of the parade, neither end of which could be seen, and go back into their holes. And still it worked and still they came. Night alone hid them from view. Election time approached with the leaven still working, and election day found it doing business at the same old stand and in the same old way. The result of the election was forcibly if not elegantly expressed by the German, who had caught the contagion and when the vote was announced, exclaimed, "Mine Gott, it vas a clean schweep," and it was. Everything on the ticket, from top to bottom, from head to tail, was People's party. They remained in power and continued as a party until about the year 1906, when some of them began fusing with the remnant of the Democratic and Republican parties, finally disappearing altogether. "Folded up as folds the Jack knife when a chaw of plug is cut."

The Free Silver or Abraham Lincoln Republican party was in the field asking for votes during the years 1896 and 1898. The Socialist party came in in the fall of 1908 and appeared on the tickets until after the election of 1912. Until 1908, the voting was done by ballots prepared principally by the candidates for the various offices except the name of the opponent of the party having the ticket printed. The voter erased all the names but those of his choice. Workers for the candidates would appear on the morning of the election with their pockets filled with campaign cigars or sometimes a bottle of anti-snake bite and put in the day soliciting for the men of his choice or for those who had last paid him for his work. His labors consisted of placing a ticket in the voters' hands, going with him to the polls, watching him deposit the ticket and then give him one of the aforesaid cigars and look for another victim.

Sometimes the worker would be worked by the workee, switching tickets on him on the way to the polls, taking one already prepared

out of his vest pocket and voting it instead of the one he was supposed to vote, thereby getting two cigars with his vote. Before the workers arrived on the grounds on election day the voter picked up one of the many tickets kept for distribution at the place of voting and voted as he desired or as he happened to, until word went out that he was not being looked after. The same condition applied here, and I presume all over the State, that existed at Topeka, Kansas, one election day when Chet Thomas rushed up to some of the workers and said, "Some of you people get down to the polls right quick. Those fellows are voting just as they d— please." Of course, there was not any considerable number of voters to which the above would apply, simply a few without any political preference, and were found in all parties. The primary law, enacted in 1908, took the "workers'" goat or job and "keen spittin'" tobacco is more in evidence now on election days than cigars and booze.

The last of the new parties to put in an appearance is that of the Progressive Republicans in 1914. In this county they elected one man, that prince of good fellows and good citizen, A. J. Holderman, to the Legislature. It is often said that because the people knew, liked and respected Jim, he was elected, not because of his politics, but in spite of them.

At the election in 1913, the question of equal suffrage was submitted to the people with the following result: For, 2,613; against, 2,369; majority for suffrage, 244. This was the second time this question was before the people of this county. The first time it was to amend section I of article 5 of the constitution of the State by striking therefrom the word "male," which resulted as follows: For the amendment, twenty-eight votes; against the amendment, seventy-six votes; majority against amendment, fifty-eight votes.

At the last election of county officers, November, 1914, there were elected: J. D. Joseph, Democrat, senator; J. M. Satterthwaite, Republican, representative; A. J. Holderman, Progressive, representative. The county clerk, sheriff, register of deeds, county attorney, clerk of the district court and county surveyor are Republicans. The probate judge, treasurer and superintendent of public instruction (the latter without opposition), are Democrats, and the coroner is a Progressive. What the result of the election of 1916 will be, only the man who can foretell the verdict of a petit jury can tell.

#### MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE.

Senators and Representatives from Butler county from its organization to the present time, with the trend of their political faith as nearly as can be ascertained or guessed. R, Republican; D, Democrat; A, Alliance; F, Fusion; P, Progressive; \*, Deceased.

## SENATORS.

*M. Stubbs (R).....1865	Neil Wilkie (R).....1881-4
*Sam Wood (R).....1867	*A. L. Redden (R).....1885-6
*J. M. McMullen (R).....1868	*J. W. Robison (R).....1887-8
*J. R. Mead (R).....1869-70	*A. W. Dennison (A).....1894-5
*E. S. Stover (R).....1871	J. F. Richardson (R).....1896-7
W. J. Cameron (R).....1872	W. F. Benson (F. & D)
*D. L. Payne (R).....1873-4	1898-1901-4-8
H. C. St. Clair (R).....1875-6	Fremont Leidy (R).....1902-9-5-10
*T. B. Murdock (R).....1877-80-89-93	C. L. Harris (R).....1911
	J. D. Joseph (D).....1912-16

## REPRESENTATIVES.

*G. T. Donaldson (R)....1864-5-8	E. D. Stratford (R).....1887-8
*D. L. McCabe (R).....1866	*D. W. Poe (R).....1887-90
*J. D. Conner (R).....1867	D. M. Elder (R).....1889-90
*T. R. Wilson (R).....1869	O. W. Jones (A).....1891-2
*Henry Small (R).....1870	*John Hartenbower (F)....1891-2
(2)*L. S. Friend (R).....1871	*C. M. Noble (F).....1893
*T. H. Baker (R).....1871	J. M. Satterthwaite (R)
*Isaac Mooney (R).....1872	1894-6-13-16
*J. M. Atwood (R).....1873	*F. P. Gillispie (F).....1897-8
*H. D. Hill (R).....1874-81-82	J. B. Adams (R).....1899-1904
*J. L. Ferguson (R).....1875-6	Lew Betts (F).....1901-2
M. A. Palmer (R).....1877-8	S. H. Brandon (R)....1903-4-7-9
*H. W. Beck (R).....1877-8	*J. M. Brown (D).....1905-6
U. A. Albin (R).....1879-80	B. R. Leydig (R).....1907-8
*D. M. Bronson (R).....1879-80	F. H. Cron (D).....1909-12
*G. A. Sears (R).....1881-2	G. C. Maxwell (D).....1909-10
*J. H. Fullenwider (R)....1883-4	W. J. Houston (D).....1913-14
*F. W. Rash (R).....1883-6	A. J. Holderman (P)....1915-16
J. M. Randall (R).....1885-6	

(2) The election of Friend was contested by Baker, in which contest he was successful, on account of fraudulent voting in El Dorado at the election and for which one Ottenott was sent to the penitentiary. He "Ottenott" have done so.

## COUNTY OFFICERS.

With Name of Township Elected From.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

*P. G. Barrett, Chelsea.....1859-60
*G. T. Donaldson, Chelsea.....1859-60
*J. S. White, Chelsea.....1859

*H. J. Branson, Chelsea, Fall R. Dvn.....	1860-1-2-3
*Jacob Landis, Chelsea.....	1861
*William Harrison, El Dorado.....	1861-2-3-4
*Henderson Thomas, El Dorado.....	1863
*Doctor Lewellyn, Chelsea.....	1864-5-6-7
*P. P. Johnson, Chelsea.....	1864-66
*Joseph H. Adams, Towanda.....	1865-6
*Squire Stewart, El Dorado.....	1865-6-7
*James R. Mead, Towanda.....	1867
*A. Ellis, Chelsea.....	1868-9
*D. S. Yates, Chelsea.....	1869
*S. C. Fulton, Towanda.....	1868-9-70
M. A. Palmer, Little Walnut.....	1869-70
M. Vaught, Chelsea.....	1870-71
*B. T. Rice, Benton.....	1872-3
Neil Wilkie, Douglass.....	1872-3
*J. A. McGinnis, Hickory.....	1874-5
*E. B. Brainard, Milton.....	1874-5
*E. W. Clifford, Augusta.....	1874-5
*Sol Wise, Douglass.....	1876-7
*T. A. Baxter, Clifford.....	1876-7
*J. T. Masterson, Douglass.....	1878
J. E. McCully, Prospect.....	1878-9
*M. Bradley, Fairview.....	1878
*A. T. Havens, Douglass.....	1879-80
*S. F. Packard, Rosalia.....	1880-81
G. P. Neiman, Milton.....	1879-84-85
*H. X. Pearse, Chelsea.....	1881-82
M. Guinty, Fairmount.....	1881-82-83
H. W. Harthower, Douglass.....	1882-83-84
*J. K. Skinner, Sycamore.....	1883-89
T. R. Purcell, Walnut.....	1885-86-87
August Kuster, Augusta.....	1887-88-89
*A. O. Rathburn, Douglass.....	1888-89-90
*B. H. Fox, Bruno.....	1890-91-92
*H. M. Brewer, Union.....	1891-92-93
John Ellis, Chelsea.....	1892-95
Thos. Ohlsen, Murdock.....	1893-96
Lafayette Stone, Richland.....	1894-97
J. W. Barnes, Rock Creek.....	1897-1900
*G. W. Teter, Prospect.....	1898-1901
E. L. Snodgrass, Benton.....	1899-1902
*B. Broderson, Clay.....	1900-03
Sol Anderson, Prospect.....	1901-08
*C. H. Bing, Union.....	1903-06
P. Paulson, Fairmount.....	1905-08

W. P. Bradley, El Dorado.....	1909-12
W. J. Houston, Murdock.....	1909-13
Geo. Elder, Bloomington.....	1911
M. A. Wait, Towanda.....	1913
J. W. Cannon, El Dorado.....	1913

## COUNTY CLERKS.

*W. R. Lambdin, (R.), Chelsea.....	1860
*J. R. Lambdin, (R.), Chelsea.....	1860
No record of the election of either of these parties but records are signed by each as county clerk.	
M. Vaught, (R.), Chelsea.....	1863-64-65
*A. J. Donahoo, (R.), Chelsea.....	1866
*A. H. Moreland, (R.), El Dorado.....	1866
*A. H. Marchall, (R.), El Dorado.....	1867-68
*H. D. Kellogg, (R.), El Dorado.....	1869-70
A. W. Stearns, (R.), Towanda.....	1871-72
*John Blevins, (R.), El Dorado.....	1873
*V. Brown, (D.), Spring.....	1874-79
*C. P. Strong, (R.), Milton.....	1880-83
*James Fisher, (R.), Hickory.....	1884-87
*T. O. Castle, (R.), El Dorado.....	1888-91
J. T. Evans, (R.), El Dorado.....	1892-95
S. G. Pottle, (R.), El Dorado.....	1896-99
H. A. J. Coppins, (R.), Plum Grove.....	1900-04
*W. H. Clark, (R.), El Dorado.....	1905-08
M. L. Arnold, (R.), Spring.....	1909-12
Orville Holford, (R.), Augusta.....	1913-16

## COUNTY TREASURERS.

*T. W. Satchell, (R.), Chelsea.....	1864-65
*Henry Martin, (R.), El Dorado.....	1866-69
*A. Ellis, (D.), Chelsea.....	1870-73
*Joseph Williams, (D.), Spring.....	1874-75
*E. B. Brainard, (R.), Milton.....	1876-79
*M. Bradley, (R.), Fairview.....	1880-83
*J. H. Austin, (R.), Clifford.....	1884-87
*J. D. Conner, (R.), El Dorado.....	1888-91
W. F. Benson, (D.), Chelsea.....	1892-93
S. R. Clifford, (R.), Clifford.....	1894-97
J. D. Hamilton, (D.), Douglass..	1898-99 and 1915-16
G. W. Tolle, (R.), El Dorado..	1900-4 and 1909-1910
C. Rayburn, (R.), Clifford.....	1905-09
J. O. Evertson, (R.), Hickory.....	1911-14

## COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

*S. N. Wood, (R.), Chelsea.....	1867
*B. O. Carr, (R.), El Dorado.....	1867-68
*D. M. Branson, (R.), El Dorado.....	1869-70
W. P. Campbell, (R.), El Dorado.....	1871-72
*A. L. Redden, (R.), El Dorado.....	1873-74
*E. L. Aiken, (R.), Augusta.....	1875-6
A. L. L. Hamilton, (R.), El Dorado.....	1877-78
*E. N. Smith, (R.), El Dorado.....	1879-80
*L. Knowles, (R.), El Dorado.....	1881-82
*Geo. Gardner, (R.), El Dorado.....	1883-84
C. E. Lobdell, (R.), El Dorado.....	1885-86
E. H. Hutchins, (R.), El Dorado.....	1887-90
S. A. McGinnis, (A.), El Dorado.....	1891-92
H. W. Schumacher, (D.), El Dorado.....	1893-94, 1897-98
T. A. Kramer, (R.), El Dorado.....	1895-96
*E. B. Brumback, (F.), El Dorado.....	1899-1900
*W. M. Rees, (R.), El Dorado.....	1901-04
C. L. Aikman, (R.) El Dorado.....	1905-09
K. M. Geddes, (R.), El Dorado.....	1909-12
Geo. J. Benson, (D.), El Dorado.....	1913-14
Chas. W. Steiger, (R.), El Dorado.....	1915-16

## SHERIFFS.

*Jasper Goodall, (R.), El Dorado.....	1864-65
*W. D. Snow, (R.), Towanda.....	1866
*James Thomas, (R.), Chelsea.....	1867-71
N. A. McKittrick, (R.), Augusta.....	1872-73
*J. E. Anderson, (R.), Glencoe.....	1874-77
*F. M. Anderson, (R.), El Dorado.....	1878-79
W. H. Douglass, (R.), Douglass.....	1880-83
*H. T. Dodson, (R.), Little Walnut.....	1884-87
*Chas. Schram, (R.), Douglass.....	1888-91
*J. W. Middleton, (R.), Augusta.....	1892-95
J. A. Hopkins, (R.), Plum Grove.....	1896-97
W. G. Turner, (D.), Towanda.....	1898-1902
Geo. A. Young, (D.), El Dorado.....	1903-06
M. E. Joliffe, (D.), El Dorado.....	1907-10
W. W. Moss, (R.), El Dorado.....	1911-14
Newt Purcell, (R.), Walnut.....	1915-16

## CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

*A. H. Marchael, (R.), Chelsea.....	1867
*W. W. Slayton, (R.), El Dorado.....	1868
A. L. Petrie, (R.), El Dorado.....	1869

*H. D. Kellogg, (R.), El Dorado.....	1870
*J. R. Ward, (R.), Towanda.....	1871
*H. M. Winger, (R.), El Dorado.....	1872
*W. O. Redden, (R.), El Dorado.....	1872
*M. D. Ellis, (R.), Towanda.....	1873-74
*C. N. James, (R.), Augusta.....	1875-82
V. P. Mooney, (R.), Towanda.....	1883-88
*W. H. Curry, (R.), Walnut.....	1889-90
*J. F. Todd, (A.), El Dorado.....	1891-92
Andy Swiggett, (D.), Towanda.....	1893-94
E. A. Makepeace, (R.), Augusta.....	1895-96
V. A. Osburn, (D.), Augusta.....	1897-1900
G. W. Lane, (R.), Augusta.....	1901-04
*A. N. Crowther, (R.), Douglass.....	1905
S. P. Karnaham, (R.), Douglass.....	1906-08
*Ray R. Shepherd, (R.), El Dorado.....	1909-11
J. C. Hoyt, (R.), El Dorado.....	1912
Anna M. Avery, (R.), El Dorado.....	1913-16

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

M. Vaught, (R.), Chelsea.....	1864-66
*A. H. Marchael, (R.), Chelsea.....	1867-68
*D. M. Bronson, (R.), El Dorado.....	1869
*W. A. Sallee, (R.), El Dorado.....	1870-71
*D. L. Knowles, (R.), El Dorado.....	1872-76
*J. D. Porter, (R.), Prospect.....	1878-79
*E. E. Harvey, (R.), El Dorado.....	1880-83
*J. A. McGinnis, (R.), Hickory.....	1884-87
*Daniel Boyden, (R.), Benton.....	1888-91
M. A. Palmer, (R.), Little Walnut.....	1892-93
S. H. Brandon, (R.), Douglass.....	1894-97
F. S. Allen, (D.), El Dorado.....	1898-1901
*F. W. Benson, (R.), Chelsea.....	1902-06
L. D. Hadley, (R.), Glencoe.....	1907-10
E. J. Sharp, (R.), El Dorado.....	1911-14
Zella Lamb, (R.), El Dorado.....	1915-16

## PROBATE JUDGES.

*Henry Martin, (R.), El Dorado.....	1864-65.
*W. H. Thomas, (R.), El Dorado.....	1867-68
*Wm. Harrison, (R.), El Dorado.....	1869-70
*H. I. Sumner, (R.), El Dorado.....	1871
*D. M. Bronson, (R.), El Dorado.....	1872
*S. W. Taylor, (R.), Douglass.....	1873-74

S. E. Black, (R.), El Dorado.....	1875-80
E. D. Stratford, (R.), Douglass.....	1881-84
G. P. Aikman, (R.), El Dorado.....	1885-88
*W. E. Kilgore, (R.), El Dorado..	1889-90 and 1895-96
*T. G. Stansbury, (A.), Benton.....	1891-92
M. H. Morrison, (D.), Hickory.....	1893-94
J. M. Randall, (D.), Fairview.....	1897-1900
J. F. Glendenning, (R.), Pleasant.....	1901-04
*J. T. Nye, (R.), Fairview.....	1905-08
R. B. Ralston, (R.), Towanda.....	1909-12
C. E. Hunt, (R.), El Dorado.....	1913-14
*J. R. McCluggage, (D.), Augusta.....	1915
V. P. Mooney, (R.), El Dorado.....	1915-16

## SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

*D. L. McCabe, (R.), Chelsea.....	1867-68
*H. D. Kellogg, (R.), El Dorado.....	1869
J. E. Buchanan, (R.), Chelsea.....	1870
*S. L. Shotwell, (R.), Douglass.....	1871-72
*S. L. Robards, (R.) Milton.....	1873-74
*John Blevins, (R.), Prospect.....	1875
*C. N. James, (R.).....	1876
*Alvah Sheldon, (R.), El Dorado.....	1877-80
*J. W. Shivley, (R.), Douglass.....	1881-84
*Hayward Webb, (R.), Augusta.....	1885-86
A. M. Brumback, (R.), Milton.....	1878-90
*Florence Olmstead, (A.), Richland.....	1891-92
Clara Hazelrigg, (F.), El Dorado.....	1893-94
W. H. Ehlers, (R.), El Dorado.....	1895-96
Morton Holcomb, (D.), Richland.....	1897-98
J. E. Mathers, (R.), Benton.....	1899-1902
C. W. Thomas, (R.), Augusta.....	1903-06
W. H. McDaniel, (R.), El Dorado.....	1907-10
F. C. Smith, (R.), El Dorado.....	1911-12
H. I. French, (D.), Little Walnut.....	1913-16

## CORONERS.

*C. Harrison, (R.), El Dorado.....	1867
*James Strickland, (R.), El Dorado.....	1870
*J. A. McKinzie, (R.), El Dorado....	1871 and 1896-97
*Robert Holt, (R.), Chelsea.....	1872
*E. L. Shirley, (R.), Augusta.....	1873
*Wm. Snyder, (R.), Fairview.....	1874-5
*J. M. Williamson, (R.), Lincoln..	1876-77 and 1880-81
*H. T. Sumner, (R.), El Dorado.....	1878-79
*J. S. Dutton, (R.), El Dorado.....	1882-86



- \*John W. Long, (R.), El Dorado....1887 and 1890-91
- O. Council, (R.), Augusta.....1888-89
- F. M. Dodson, (A.), El Dorado.....1892-93
- \*N. L. Gunn, (R.), El Dorado.....1894-95
- F. E. Dillenbeck, (D.), El Dorado.....1898-99
- H. A. Hill, Jr., (R.), Augusta.....1900-01-02
- C. E. Hunt, (R.), El Dorado.....1903 and 1909-10
- C. W. Harvey, (R.), El Dorado.....1907-08
- Minos West, (D.), El Dorado.....1911-12
- W. E. Turner, (P.), El Dorado.....1913-16

## COUNTY SURVEYORS.

- \*H. D. Kellogg, (R.), El Dorado.....1867-68
- \*T. R. Wilson, (R.), El Dorado.....1869-70
- \*D. M. Bruce, (R.), Prospect.....1871
- \*E. H. Stoddard, (R.), Towanda.....1872
- \*F. C. Buck, (R.), Augusta.....1873
- \*J. W. Weimer, (R.), Douglass.....1874-75
- \*J. H. Austin, (R.), Clifford.....1876-77 and 1894-97
- \*L. A. Hamlin, (D.), El Dorado.....1878-79
- \*H. C. Gabbert, (R.), Augusta.....1880-85
- W. S. Buskirk, (R.), Hickory.....1886-87 and 1890
- F. S. Bowen, (R.), El Dorado.....1888-1891
- Artie Peffley, (A.), Lincoln.....1892-93
- J. C. Smith, (F.), Union.....1898-99
- Lee Scott, (R.), El Dorado.....1900-06
- C. W. Buskirk, (R.), Hickory.....1907-16

## COUNTY ASSESSORS.

- \*Jordon Mabe, (R.), Chelsea.....1864-65
- \*W. H. Thomas, (R.), El Dorado.....1866
- M. Vaught, (R.), Chelsea.....1867
- Alec Petrie, (R.), El Dorado.....1867
- Office abolished .....1868 to 1911
- W. A. Liggett, (R.), Rosalia.....1911
- \*W. H. Clark, (R.), El Dorado.....1913-14
- Office again abolished.

## COUNTY HEALTH OFFICERS.

Appointed by Board of County Commissioners.

- \*J. A. McKinzie.....1896 and 1903-04
- F. E. Dillenbeck.....1897-98-99- and 1905-06
- W. O. Bennett.....1900 and 1909
- \*R. S. Miller.....1901-02 and 1908
- C. E. Hunt.....1907-10
- F. T. Johnson.....1911
- F. A. Garvin.....1912-16

## CHAPTER XV.

### COURTS AND THE BAR.

By A. L. L. Hamilton.

EARLY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS—"NO MAN'S LAND"—COUNTY LINES IN 1864  
—COUNTY SEAT CHANGED—EARLY LAWYERS AND LAW SUITS—FIRST  
DEED RECORDED—FIRST AND SECOND TERMS OF COURT—HORSE  
THIEVES—VIGILANCE COMMITTEES—LYNCHINGS—"BUTLER COUNTY  
WAR"—CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES—ATTORNEYS.

Butler county was one of the original thirty-six counties laid out by the first territorial legislature in 1855, and until the admission of Kansas as a State on the 29th day of January, 1861, Butler county was a part of the second judicial district and Hon. Rush Elmore of Alabama, associate justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas territory was assigned to hold court therein. It is quite certain that no term of court was ever held in the county while Kansas was a territory. By a statute of 1860, this county was attached to Breckenridge, now Lyon, county, for judicial purposes, and in the constitution of the State it was made a part of the fifth judicial district. Again on May 22, 1861, after Kansas became a State, the county of Butler was attached to Breckenridge county and courts were provided for commencing on the seventh Monday after the first Monday of March and September.

For several years prior to 1860, disputes arose, as to the boundary lines of the county on the south and east, and criminals, principally horse thieves, escaped punishment on account of the uncertainty in regard to the county lines. Witnesses were unable to testify as to the county in which crimes were committed, and the disputed territory became a "No Man's Land" and the the rendezvous and asylum of numerous bands of horse thieves. The law-abiding citizens were up in arms and appealed to the authorities for relief, and the legislature on February 27, 1860, passed two laws, one declaring the fifth standard parallel the South line, and the line between ranges 9 and 10 east, the east line of the county, and the other forming the county of Irving, adjoining Butler on the south and making El Dorado the county seat, the new county being thirty-six miles from east to west and twenty-four miles north and south, and comprising about all of the south twenty-four miles of what is now Butler county. The fifth parallel was

made the north line and the line between ranges 8 and 9, east, the east line of Irving county.

There was not much change in the county lines until the legislative session of 1864, when Butler county was reconstructed, and made to include all the territory in what is now Butler and Cowley counties, the east twelve miles of the present counties of Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner, the west nine miles of Greenwood, Elk and Chautauqua, and the south six miles of Chase and Marion. Early settlers say this change in county lines was demanded so that the Indians who had stolen their cattle and horses during the war could be punished and their depredations stopped. At any rate the new law had the desired effect. When this law was passed, the town of Chelsea, having been the county seat of Butler county since its organization, became the capital of the enlarged county of Butler. At this time being supposed to be the largest county in the United States, if not in the inhabited world, this county was named, and has been denominated ever since, "The State of Butler."

Very soon the settlers along the Arkansas river and lower lower Walnut demanded that the seat of government be brought nearer to their homes, claiming that the town of Chelsea was too far away. An election was held on May 21, 1864, which resulted in the removal of the county seat to El Dorado by a large majority.

There are no records so far as known in Butler county showing that any litigation occurred here during or before the Civil war. For several years during that period a lawyer named Prince G. D. Morton lived at Chelsea, and there must have been some lawsuits there, but if so, no records of any legal proceedings have been made, or if made, they have been lost or destroyed. Early settlers say that suits were brought before justices of the peace at or near Chelsea, but only one they remember of was actually tried by a jury. A man named Pratt was sued before a justice of the peace who lived on Durachen Creek, but whose name is not remembered. The plaintiff lived in Chase county, and claimed that Pratt had his horse and had converted him to his own use. P. G. D. Morton was plaintiff's attorney. The identity of the horse was the question in dispute. Pratt demanded a jury, and the case was set for a certain day for trial. Pratt sent to Wilson county for an attorney. When he came, he proved to be Capt. A. J. Miller, who later became a prominent lawyer of Butler county in the early seventies. Numerous witnesses were subpoenaed, from both Butler and Chase counties. The constable had ridden over 100 miles to summon the jury. Several hundred people traveled long distances to hear the trial, which lasted about a week. The plaintiff's attorney's argument to the jury consumed an entire day and a part of the night following. An adjournment until the next day was taken, when Capt. Miller's argument began. His client demanded that he put in as much time as the opposing attorney, which

he did. The verdict of the jury was as follows: "We, the jury, find that the plaintiff has no cause of action."

The first deed recorded in the county was to P. G. D. Morton of Chelsea, Butler county, territory of Kansas, and is in book A, page 1. It is dated August 7, 1860, and was acknowledged before "J. R. Lambdin, clerk of the court in and for Butler county," on August 27, 1860, and was made by George Birch and Sarah Birch, his wife, and conveyed "one house 13x16 and three lots, two on which the house now stands, the other some one of the business lots on town plat of Chelsea town-site, being the same house in which said Birch now resides, and same lots promised to said Birch for building said house standing on south-half of southeast quarter of section 28, township 24, range 6." Sylvester Carter is the present owner of this eighty acres of land.

The first term of the district court ever held in the county began on July 9, 1866, in El Dorado, and the journal recites: Present, Hon. J. H. Watson, judge of the fifth judicial district; Henry Imel, clerk; W. D. Show, sheriff; D. M. Bronson, county attorney. No cases were tried, but two orders were made in the case of the State of Kansas v. H. A. Bemis, charged with grand larceny, as follows: "It is ordered by the court that the clerk of the district court of Chase county be required within sixty days after adjournment of court to make out and transmit to the clerk of this court a certified transcript of the proceedings had in this case in said court." Also, "It is ordered by the court that the said Hezekiah A. Bemis enter into a new recognizance in the sum of \$300 for his appearance at the next term of this court, to be approved by the sheriff of Butler county, and it is further ordered that the said Hezekiah A. Bemis be held in custody by the said sheriff until the order be complied with." The only other cases on the docket were: The State v. Christopher Anderson, charged with grand larceny; the State v. James F. Fongler, charged with grand larceny and bigamy, and the State v. Norris Harron, charged with bigamy, all of which were continued. All of the above cases were dismissed at the April term, 1867.

The second term of the district court commenced on Monday, April 22, 1867. Present, Hon. S. N. Wood, judge of the Ninth judicial district; W. W. Slayton, clerk; D. M. Bronson, county attorney. Jurors present were Joseph Adams, William Thomas, James Craft, T. W. Satchell, John Bishop, Edward Jeakins, P. P. Johnson and Doctor Lewellyn. Jurors failing to appear and excused were William A. Badley, William Tousley and A. B. Allen. The first attorneys to appear in the district court were W. T. Galliher, for the plaintiff, and Ruggles & Brown, of Emporia, for the the defendant, in the case of James Thomas v. J. B. McCabe. The following attorneys had business in the district court prior to January 1, 1872: D. M. Brown, W. T. Galliher, B. O. Carr, I. A. Moulton, W. P. Campbell, W. H. Redden, Henry T. Sumner, W. B. Parsons, Augustus Ottenott, W. D. Carpenter, J. J. Winger and

A. L. Redden, of El Dorado; I. M. Philips, E. E. Eaton, Eugene L. Akin, S. D. Pryor, E. B. Kager, G. P. Garland, D. Dodge, J. F. Lanck and James McCollum, of Augusta; S. W. Taylor, of Douglass; R. M. Ruggles, W. R. Brown, P. B. Plumb and Hunt & Gillett, of Emporia; William P. Hackney, of Winfield; W. S. Romigh, of Cottonwood Falls; Isaac Sharp, of Council Grover. Many Butler county lawyers resided with their families on claims, traveling from there to their offices, some every day, others being with their families over Sunday only. Mr. Gallihier's home was on the Little Walnut, a few miles southwest of where Leon now is. I. A. Moulton lived on Turkey creek; D. M. Bronson on land now a part of the city of El Dorado; W. P. Campbell, about two miles west of El Dorado; Henry F. Sumner, on land now owned by Joseph King, near El Dorado; J. J. Wingar, in Prospect township.

In 1870, several thousand new settlers came to the county. They came in covered wagons, about the only way to get here in that early day. The large majority had all their worldly possessions in a single wagon, to which was hitched their only span of horses. With this team they expected to plow the land and put in their crops, and they had no money with which to buy another team. It was soon discovered that an organized band of horsethieves was in the country. Many settlers would find their horses had disappeared during the night, and could not be found in the morning after diligent search. Hiding places were found where horses had been kept for a short time. These were generally in the thickest timber along the Walnut. They were usually a few miles apart. One place was found dug out along a high bank of the Walnut river, where horses had recently been kept, but no horses could be found at the time on the place. A system of spying was organized, and several horses were found in the cave and returned to their owners. The people learned positively as to the identity of some of the thieves, and found out who others were by their intimate association with the thieves. "Birds of a feather flock together." Arrests were made, but convictions were impossible because of lack of positive proof or of some intimate friends of the defendant being on the jury. The settlers organized "vigilance committees" in every neighborhood, and soon resolved to take the law into their own hands. "Patience had ceased to be a virtue." In the month of November, 1870, four men were shot and killed a few miles north of Douglass and a few days later four others were taken from Douglass and a tree along the Walnut river and hung, and "the Butler county war" was on. Warrants were sworn out, charging nearly one hundred of the settlers with the murder of the eight men. Col. W. P. Hackney, then a young lawyer of Arkansas City, now a prominent attorney and honored citizen of Winfield, was employed to defend them, and he has kindly consented to give to the readers of this history his recollection of what took place, which follows:

## "THE BUTLER COUNTY WAR."

"In August, 1870, a young lawyer, in search of adventure, found himself in El Dorado, Kan. On the morning of the sixteenth of that month he took stage for Winfield, where he arrived in time for supper, but the accommodations for his entertainment not being in evidence, at the instance of the driver, he went on to Arkansas City. During that night one of its citizens jumped one-quarter of the town site, and while at breakfast the lawyer was employed to defend him before the claim league that evening, therefor. That claim league was, seemingly, composed of every one, but the lawyer's client, and all were against him, and consequently hostile to his lawyer. When the case was on trial, one of the mob, seeing that the lawyer was a stranger, and taking that case had alienated every one from him, concluded he would intimidate the lawyer, and thereby advertise his own prowess, and for that purpose explained to the lawyer, who weighed only one hundred and twenty-six pounds, what he would do to him if he repeated a question theretofore asked him of a witness. The lawyer called the bluff and the "bully" subsided, to the evident mortification of the mob. The next morning a committee of three, composed of the postmaster, superintendent of the stage line, and chairman of the meeting the night before, waited upon the lawyer and advised him to get out of town, else they did not know what the people would do to him, etc., etc. The lawyer had expected to return to Winfield on the stage after breakfast, but for which employment. When thus threatened he told the committee that he had intended to leave the next morning, but that the people there evidently did not know who he was, so he would locate and stay with them until they found out, and that if any of them had an ambition to "wrestle his hash in hell," let them interfere with him; when he proceeded to build himself a house, sent for his family, and the people then thus became acquainted with him, and were wise enough not to interfere with him further.

"On election night, early in November, 1870, that year a vigilance committee killed the two Booths and Jack Corbin, at Booths' Ranch, north of the Little Walnut, and were looking for Jim Smith, and just after they crossed that stream, near Douglass, they met him, where, in a running fight, he was killed. The stage was late that evening and crossed that stream just behind the killers. Warrants were out for eighty-seven men and one woman, charged with the murder of those men, and among them was that stage driver, whose home was in Arkansas City. He employed that lawyer to defend him, and with bondsmen all started in a double-seated spring wagon for Douglass. When they arrived there, the town was full of armed men, who had driven the sheriff away, and refused to be arrested and stopped the stage driver and prevented his surrender. Learning that he had a lawyer with him, they engaged him, too, and he prepared complaints and warrants

charging Bill Quimby, Dr. Morris and his son, and Mike Drea with horse stealing, or harboring such and receiving stolen horses, the exact charge, he no longer recalls. They were arrested and on their application, as he remembers, their hearings were adjourned by the court for two weeks, and they were guarded in Quimby's store in Douglass.

"In the meantime, that lawyer was employed generally to defend them in all prosecutions then pending, or thereafter commenced, growing out of said killing, and he remained there at the hotel, awaiting developments. Quimby's home was probably 500 feet from his store, and the next day after his arrest, and while he, the two Morris and Drea were thus confined in the store, and hundreds of armed men guarding them, or on the lookout for a rescue party of outlaws, said to be on their way from Wichita for the purpose of releasing them and killing the men who shot one of the Booths and Smith and hung the other Booth and Corbin, their friends; when out from their home came Mrs. Quimby, revolver in hand, her long hair rustling in the breeze, and she made a "bee-line" to where her husband was. Everybody seemingly yelled to her to "Stop!" or to "Stop her!" Hundreds of men drew gun or revolver, rushed before her, threatening to shoot her if she did not stop, but pushing her revolver in their faces, she cleared an opening and rushing into the store, handed her revolver to her husband, saying: "Take it and shoot your way out, or die like a man. Otherwise they will kill you as they would a dog." But the guns were upon him, with the admonition that, "If you dare to touch that revolver, you are a dead man." He hesitated, turned away and she returned (screaming defiance and vengeance) to her children.

The lawyer, as usual with him that afternoon, took a walk out from the town, and when nearly to the hotel on his return was met by three men, a large crowd following, when what seemed to be the spokesman said to him: "Here, you! We want you to get out of this town as quick as possible, and we don't want you to wait upon the order of your going, either." The lawyer had learned by this time that any kind of a suspicion against a man ripened into conviction conclusive very quickly, and his first thought was that some evil disposed person had poisoned the minds of the mob against him, and hence his order to leave, and of course his fighting blood was at a white heat instantly; and he said: "Here, you fellows. You don't know who I am. I served four years in the United States army, and was shot twice on the field of battle to make this country free, and no damned outfit is going to tell me when I shall leave this town, or how I shall travel; and if any of you want to try that issue with me, make your bluff good, and see how you come out!" Thereupon the spokesman said: "Don't be a damned fool! You have been employed by us, as our attorney; and for reasons sufficient to us, we don't want you here any longer. Therefore, we want you to leave for home at once." Thus admonished and mollified, he replied: "But the stage is gone and I have no other mode of

conveyance." To which he replied, pointing to hundreds of horses hitched nearby: "Take your choice of any of those horses. He is yours on your fee and we will settle with the owner." But he said: "It is growing cold, a norther is in evidence. It is late in the afternoon; it's nearly forty miles to Arkansas City, where I live, and I have no overcoat, no gloves, no spurs, and in these times I need for such a trip, revolvers, but have none." Thereupon they said to a young man about the size of the lawyer, with a new overcoat on: "Get out of that overcoat and give it to him." That was done, another gave him a new pair gauntlet gloves, another a large comforter, another an elegant belt and holsters and a pair of ivory-handled seven-shooters; and another \$150 in gold. He selected a large, splendid roan horse with new bridle, blanket and saddle, and they telling him that they would look after his hotel bill, he gladly mounted and rode away, followed and soon overtaken by a veritable blizzard that covered the whole country with snow three or four inches deep on the level, through which he miserably wended his way, arriving at his home about 3 o'clock the next morning. The night following, Quimby, Doctor Morris, his son, and Mike Drea were taken to a tree down on the Walnut river, southwest of Douglass, and there hung.

The next day, about 4 o'clock p. m., the lawyer received a letter from his employers calling him to Douglass at once. He started promptly, facing as he went another blizzard from the north, and after much suffering, he and the companion bringing him the summons, finally late at night, came upon the home of John Irwin, and sheltering their horses behind a hay stack, went to the house, a log structure without chinking, with wagon sheets fastened on the north and south sides to keep out the snow. John, his wife and little daughter were in the only bed in the house; five or six others were ahead of them, who had placed their wagon sheet on the dirt floor, lain down with their clothes on in front of the improvised fire-place, covering themselves with the few blankets they had, when room was made for the new comers, who spent the balance of that night miserably, indeed, but it was life, whereas death lurked on the outside. When morning came they wended their way to Douglass, where they found that seemingly all of the men had stampered to somewhere in the Flint Hills, where they were in hiding. Putting up at Lamb's hotel, the lawyer finally got into communication with them, and after some days—the weather moderating—they returned; when rumor had it that Lieutenant Wallingsford, of the United States army at Abilene—a notorious outlaw afterwards dismissed from the service—with hundreds of outlaws sworn in as deputy marshals, in which a newly organized company of militia at and above Augusta, would not fire into each other. Those on the west side were concealed, those whom they suspected of having killed their said friends. In fact, two men came in, their horses covered with sweat, claiming that they had been chased by some of that gang, who were then on their way



there, only a few miles out. Everybody seemingly believed that and organized for war then and there. Two battalions of about three hundred men each were advanced along the main road, just outside of Douglass, one on the east of that road and the other on the west side, separated so that in firing on the enemy coming in over that road, they would not fire into each other. Those on the west side were concealed, as the writer now recalls, in a corn field, and those on the east in tall grass, while probably one hundred and fifty men were advanced half a mile further north with skirmishers, front and flank army fashion, thrown forward with orders to skirmish with the enemy, slowly falling back, and thus drawing them into the fire of the forces left and right, when they were to be annihilated.

It was a beautiful, moonlight night, and when all was ready, over the protest of the fighters, who insisted they would be killed sure, the lawyer, with one companion, started to meet the invaders with the idea of persuading them, if possible, to halt and go back. Meeting no one, however, they passed through Augusta and arrived at El Dorado just at dawn, where they learned that a militia company had been formed by the friends of the murdered men at Augusta, who had called upon the Governor of Kansas for arms, and that his adjutant general was then in the hotel, with arms, ammunition, etc., for one hundred men, having arrived the evening before. The lawyer then repaired to the general's room, where he informed him that the organization of said militia company, and their armament meant civil war, as the men who had killed the alleged outlaws and their friends meant every man and boy old enough to fight in southern Butler and northern Cowley counties. That they were largely old soldiers, fresh from fields of battle, fully armed, ably officered, and were ready to fight and would fight any and all persons, officers or not, who dared to try to arrest them, and that the best thing he could do was to ship his war materials back to Topeka, and hide himself there, and allow the excitement to subside, when the lawyer would undertake to have the alleged murderers surrender themselves to the sheriff, under said warrants. This was agreed to, the parties responsible for his presence so notified, and after eating breakfast with the lawyer, he and his war materials left for Topeka, and the lawyer and his companions left for Douglass, where they learned that parties had come in after they left and reported both killed by said outlaws, and, strange as it may seem, believed what they heard, no matter how absurd.

After much wrangling and some days of deliberation, it was finally determined that those for whom warrants were out should go to El Dorado and surrender themselves to the sheriff, but that all others should go with them, as the sheriff and everybody else who dared criticize such lynchings were classed as like outlaws. In the meantime another violent snow storm was in evidence, and on a very cold day, amidst a deep snow, the cavalcade, late in the afternoon, started, passing through Augusta—which was classed as hostile territory—about sundown. They

continued north and west into camp in the timber about our miles below El Dorado. The wagons were drawn up in a circle, horses on the inside, guards were stationed outside, the snow shoveled off, tents put up, supper cooked. Aye, ham, eggs and coffee—black coffee— and a feast had, after which the men, other than those on guard, slept until morning, when a like breakfast was had, and all then went into El Dorado, where these men, and their friends, reported to the sheriff, and all then went before three justices of the peace (their names are not now recalled) theretofore arranged for, and their cases set down for trial a few days later, and the amount of the bonds for the appearance of each fixed by the court. The question of who their sureties should be, coming up, the lawyer then stated that he was directed by his clients to say that 'No bondsmen had been provided, and none would be, and that the court must admit them to bail on their own recognizance, or they would go home without, and be ready for trial as ordered.' After much wrangling by lawyers employed to assist in the prosecution, the general commanding said: 'Here, you fellows! It is getting late, the weather is cold and we have a long cold ride to make, in order to get to our homes. If you want these men to sign their bonds to be back here, do it quick. Otherwise we and they will depart now.' Cavil then ceased, the bonds were signed by each of the defendants, and all left for home. At the time appointed they and their said attorney were on hand, and separate trials demanded and the grind commenced before the three justices of the peace, which ended after some weeks, in the discharge of all but three, who gave bond to appear in court in April following. In the meantime, and when, the writer does not now recall, but the paper will show, an article appeared in the Walnut Valley Times, purporting to be, as he now recollects signed "798 Vigilantes," to the effect that the people coming into that country were mostly old soldiers and that their property consisted largely of their teams, wagons, harness, plows and a scanty supply of meager household goods, and that without their teams they could not live and care for their families, and would have to go back from whence they came, and that they did not propose to do that, but in order to stay, the horse thieves then infesting that country, and their friends, must go. That they had killed four on November 4th and four on December 4th, and that they proposed to kill four on the 4th of every month thereafter until all were gone, and that any attempt to prosecute them therefor, meant death, or words to that effect, after which it is hardly necessary to recite that many left between two days that none had suspected of wrongdoing.

"On the second day before the April term of the district court commenced in 1871, that lawyer, then living at Belle Plaine, in Sumner county, repaired to Douglass, and the next day the said defendants and about three hundred of their friends, with teams loaded with feed and provender for man and beast, and fully armed, with him wended their way to El Dorado, where they went into camp, just outside of the vil-

lage on the Walnut river, near sundown. The general and his adjutant with said lawyer repaired to the hotel, where they were assigned to a large room with three beds in it and a table in the center, where they spent the night, during which an officer would appear and the following formula would be gone through with. Officer: 'Captain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ men from \_\_\_\_\_ are here and await your orders as to where they shall go into camp.' General: 'Give Captain \_\_\_\_\_ my compliments and tell him to go into camp on the west of the line, facing out, and post guards accordingly, and await orders.' And so it went on until late at night, when Captain \_\_\_\_\_ from Hickory Creek reported with eighty-nine men and was directed likewise, and when dawn arrived, El Dorado was girded with armed soldiers from the Walnut river below to that river above. On the way up from Douglass, the general, in conversation with the lawyer said: 'You will not have to defend these men.' When he asked why, that officer replied: 'Young man, you need not concern yourself about that.' And the lawyer subsided, without the least idea of what he meant thereby. After an early breakfast the next morning, the general, adjutant and lawyer were joined by two other officers, all fully armed, when the general remarked to the lawyer: 'Come with us.' When all started down the street towards the court house. When opposite the county attorney's office they met the judge of that court, when the general said to him: 'Judge, our people came into this country to make themselves homes, where they hoped to rear their children, and found it infested with horse thieves and their friends, who stole their horses and robbed them of the means to support their families. The law was powerless to protect them and they were forced into self-defense to kill some of them, when the others decamped. Three of our men have been bound over in your court today, therefore, and this is to notify you that these men will not be tried, and if necessary to kill some officials to prevent that, their blood will be upon their own hands, not ours.' He turned and walked into the county attorney's office. The judge said to the lawyer: 'Sir, what means this?' He replied: 'You know as much about that as I do. Had I dreamed that such was their mission I would not have been with them, but, judge, they have killed eight men; they have families; they believe that killing was necessary under all the circumstances, and desperate at the thought of prosecution long continued, there is no telling what they may do.' He replied: 'Are you not their lawyer? It is your duty as an officer of court to control and hold them in check.' He replied: 'That is all very true in theory, and no lawyer has a higher appreciation of his duty as such than myself; but, judge, I am very much in love with life, and especially with a little girl who is wife to me, and I am not going to abandon the one to throw away the other by playing with these men the game you suggest.' Then he said: 'Then it is your duty to withdraw and refuse to defend them, under such circumstances.' To which he replied: 'Oh! That is all very fine theory, but it won't work in this case. First, because if I

did that, it would be my duty to surrender back to them the considerable sums of money they have paid me, and having spent it, I cannot do that. Second, because, just how much I may know about said killing is Greek to hundreds of them, and if I did that, some of them might conclude therefrom that I was ready to betray them to courts and officers of the state, and I am somewhat ticklish about my throat and I love my wife, so I prefer to stay with her and let matters drift, rather than to follow the eight into that bourne from whence no traveler has returned; and if you are like circumstanced I would suggest that discretion is the better part of valor, and those men had better be discharged and sent back home today, else your wife may be a widow.' They indulged in like talk to the county attorney. Later when the lawyer arrived in court it was jammed with the vigilantes. The judge, as pale as death, took his seat upon the judicial bench, when the county attorney, likewise pale, arose and said: 'If Your Honor please, too much blood has been recently shed in this county already and I doubt if, under present conditions, convictions can be had in these cases (naming the three), and further blood might be shed, and I therefore move the court to dismiss these cases, and discharge these defendants, that they go hence without delay.' And the court said: 'The order is so made, and these defendants are discharged.' And thus ended what was then known as the Butler Coffnty War.' "

W. D. Hackney.

The number of criminal cases in the district court up to the present time is 1,367, and of civil cases, 8,560. Many of these cases were of great interest at the time and some of the most brilliant lawyers in the West have tried cases here. It can be truthfully stated, however, that nearly all of the trials have been conducted by our local attorneys and it is very seldom that litigants have deemed it necessary to import lawyers from outside the county, and when they did were often disappointed with the results. It was the custom here as elsewhere when the country was new for lawyers to travel with the judge from one county to another and attend the sessions of the court, expecting employment in cases to be tried; but this has become unprofitable and was entirely abandoned many years ago.

Of the numerous attorneys who have resided in the county and practiced here, the large majority only remained a short time. Many have found it impossible to establish themselves and soon removed elsewhere. Others, more patient and plodding, not expecting to make their fortunes in a day, remained, and some of the latter are still with us. Generally, it can be said of these that they have done well and have become substantial citizens and are possessed of a reasonable amount of the good things of this life. Of the attorneys who have practiced at this bar but comparatively few have died. Several of these were among the leading lawyers of the State. Some were more brilliant than others. Nearly all were good attorneys and successful practitioners. All of these

have long since gone on before: Eugene L. Akin, William T. Galliher, George Gardner, Eli N. Smith, Alfred L. Redden, Col. Henry T. Sumner, Col. William H. Redden, Israel A. Moulton, Daniel M. Bronson, W. D. Carpenter.

Butler county has been fortunate in the members of the bar. Some attorneys in nearby counties have been disbarred for unprofessional conduct; others have become habitual drunkards; some have been prosecuted and convicted of crime; but it is to the credit of the bar of this county that our lawyers have been generally law-abiding, honorable and worthy citizens.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### MEDICAL PROFESSION.

By J. D. Hamilton; M. D.

PHYSICIANS OF THIS GENERATION—QUALIFICATIONS—EXPERIENCES—  
PIONEER PHYSICIANS—ADVANCE OF THE SCIENCE—SURGERY—HOSPITALS.

I have been requested to write what I know of the medical profession of this county for the last generation, that being the period of my association with it. I came to this county in April, 1883, and my experience has been extensively with the profession. The men who were active in the professions, mercantile and agricultural pursuits, were the men who have made this county the commonwealth that is equal to any in the State.

The physicians who represented the profession were not mediocre nor insignificant; being graduates of the best schools in the Nation, confirmed by experience, were able to cope with the diseases of the county and served their times well. They kept abreast of the times until they responded to their last call; and they loved their profession for its sake. They made their diagnosis and applied their remedies from the clinical aspects of their patients, by close observation and thorough reasoning. They answered their calls on horseback and in buggy. They went, they stayed and determined to fight the divine fiat that all must die; and when the heart ceased to beat and the breath went and came no more, they closed the eyes of their patients and with regret left them with the dear ones. None but a physician knows how he feels. They also have their times for rejoicing and appreciation. When the raging fever subsided, the pulse became regular, the patient was found sleeping and awoke with a little smile and on the road to recovery.

Many are the incidents we could relate as we passed on our way in and out with our fellow men, women and children. I have in mind a number of older physicians. Dr. J. O. Bugher located on the Whitewater in the early sixties, south of Towanda. Dr. John Horner, who lives in the city of Whitewater, located in Milton township about 1870. Dr. J. A. McGinnis located in Hickory township; Dr. Ensley in Clay township; Dr. Cunningham also located in Clay township, and also practiced in Cowley county. Dr. J. A. McKenzie was perhaps the first man to locate in El Dorado, and for many years was one of the leading physi-

cians of the county. Dr. Gordon, Dr. White, the father of the noted William Allen White; Dr. Hunt., Dr. Fullinwider, Dr. Koogler, Dr. Kuhn and Dr. Miller were El Dorado's earliest physicians. The oldest physicians of Augusta were Drs. Hill, Shirley, Buck, Marshall, Hall and Polk. Those of Leon were Doctors Carlisle, Kline and McKinzie. Dr. Benepe Knot and McGowen, Tucker, Thomas, McCluggage and myself represented the medical profession of Douglass for many years. Dr. Barklow has been in Rose Hill for twenty-five years and perhaps will be there for twenty years more. Dr. Phillips is now located in Beaumont. I am sorry to say that most of them have answered their last call. They represented the medical fraternity and did it well. Doctors Carlisle, Barklow, Hall and Marshall and myself are left and it has fallen on me to tell the story. Why I should be so blest I cannot tell, but I am thankful for the same. Abe Martin said, "What a boy eats between meals is what keeps him from starving to death," and perhaps it is what I eat that has something to do with my being here. Many are the times that we have spared our swords, singly and together, with death, over our patients and have won out at times. We have also been with life and action. We have been with the mother when she breathed for the first time her first born's breath. May the good Providence deal gently with the mothers of the past and the mothers-to-be of Butler county. Mothers are the highest type of womanhood, next to the angels.

But what of the present medical faculty of the county? I know all of them personally, and some of them well. I know them to be good and true men, who have the profession at heart and who have profited by our experience and have opportunities and helps that we did not have—X-ray, microscope, physiological chemistry, morbid anatomy and the hospital. I cannot say too much for the hospital, the strong and steady surgeon, the anesthetic, the antiseptic, the house physician and the nurse, the angel who comes to the sick and suffering with knowledge and skill and their angelic touch and pleasant smile. God bless them and their wrist watch as they remain with you through the long vigils of the night. I am no medical nihilist. I believe in medicine. There is truth in medicines, facts in surgery, and relief to be had in true medicine that is to be had in no other avenue.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### AGRICULTURE.

By Clarence King.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—FIRST FAIRS—KAFIR CORN CARNIVAL—CHANGES IN METHODS—ALFALFA—KAFIR—INCREASE OF CROP ACREAGE—MARKET CONDITIONS—OATS AND WHEAT—PROGRESS—"KAFIR CORN"—COUNTY FARM.

The first agricultural society was organized in 1872, with Lewis Maxwell, president, and M. D. Ellis, secretary. An agricultural exhibition was held at Towanda during the fall of 1872. The grounds were prepared and track laid out and graded on the M. D. Ellis claim, the northeast quarter of section 9 in Towanda township. A very creditable showing was made in products of the farm, live stock, riding and driving on the track, etc., considering the age and opportunities of the times. It was not a money making institution. The grounds were unfenced and very little money was realized from "gate(?) receipts." The next year the fair was held in Douglass, where a good track had been prepared, the grounds fenced and buildings erected for live stock of all kinds, exhibits of the farm, etc. With the exception of a few years there has been since said time and still is held at Douglass a Butler county exposition by the Douglass Agricultural Society. The officers of this society now are: Ed Wilkerson, president; William Hilton, treasurer; J. A. Clay, secretary. This is one of the flourishing institutions of Southern Butler, and under its present management is a success in every particular.

Fairs were held for a number of years at El Dorado, southwest of the city, and then removed to the northwest part, where good buildings and a grandstand and amphitheater were erected and one of the fastest half-mile tracks in the State, but for some reason it was not a profitable venture for its promoters, and it ceased to exist.

The kafir corn carnival held in El Dorado during the fall is taking the place of the fair to some extent.

An agricultural history of Butler county, although it does not extend over a great lapse of time, shows some great changes. The really important farming period of its history does not extend back many decades. Its early agricultural efforts were mostly along the lines of live stock production. Markets being far away, too far to profitably market grain except through the agency of live stock. Emporia was



one of the early markets for the earliest settlers even points farther away.

The county's important agronomical history cannot be said to extend back farther than forty years and upon a well settled permanent basis for a considerably shorter period than that. Especially in the kinds of crops raised and in the manner of cultivation have the changes been remarkable. It is indeed quite a transition from the old style sod breaker and its ox team to the modern tractor with the its multiple plows.

But a more effective change and one of far more importance has been the adoption into the county's agriculture of those crops that are best suited to its soil and climate and in a large area like Butler county with a somewhat diversified soil as to its different sections these crops vary in importance somewhat throughout the county. The eastern part of the county being a rougher country, it has always been inclined to live stock, and the feed crops, while the western part has always been more of a grain growing section. The early settlers confined themselves mostly to the river valleys, whose fertile soil produced abundantly all the grain crops known in their times farther east. Corn easily became the leading crop with wheat at least an equal, at a little later date, in the western and more especially the northwestern part.

The open range the year round and prairie hay were the chief forage in the early days, and cattle fed upon this ration often presented a sorry spectacle by spring, it being a common occurrence to have to stand them on their feet every morning or pull them out of the creek where they had mired down and were too weak to extricate themselves.

Results were vastly different in such methods from those gained in feeding modern rations of grain, alfalfa and ensilage.

Farming methods were just as crude in the early days as the feeding operations. One early settler on the upper Whitewater who long owned and operated one of its fertile farms had a farm outfit which consisted of a lister, harrow and cultivator, which, with a wagon in which to gather his corn, comprised his whole equipment. His farm was run on the one crop plan and he himself frequently said that it had been run that way just about as long as it could be profitably. With the depletion of the fertility in the valley lands and the breaking out of the thinner uplands, then came a demand for other crops than the old order of oats, wheat and corn. Sorghum was early introduced and proved to be a valuable forage crop on the thinner soils and a great change. Its "sorghum lasses" was often a great blessing to the early settler, but it was neither a soil restorer nor a grain crop and it remained for alfalfa and kafir to supply these needs. These two crops have marked a wonderful improvement in Butler county agronomy and have contributed greatly to its present prosperous and profitable condition. It is interesting to note what a great change these two new crops have wrought in local agriculture, even quite recently. Their in-

roduction at first was rather slow. A majority of the settlers had come from a corn raising country and they clung tenaciously to maize, of which they had generally raised bountiful crops in the virgin soil of the fertile Walnut and Whitewater valleys and their tributaries. Many of the early settlers also declared that the fertility of these valleys was practically inexhaustible and could not see the need of a soil renovator like alfalfa. The spread of agronomy to the thinner uplands also did much to increase the importance and popularity of kafir. Alfalfa sprang into importance somewhat earlier and quicker than kafir, the latter having only been introduced into this country from Africa by the National Department of Agriculture in 1885, and soon after into this locality. Neither of these crops were raised to any extent in Butler county previous to 1890, although alfalfa had been a well known crop in parts of our country from the earliest times and was an important forage plant in ancient times.

It soon gained in importance and popularity in the county's crop list, especially in those bottom lands whose fertility had been somewhat exhausted, perhaps so much that corn raising was rather unprofitable, and alfalfa here fitted to the soil and into the rotation admirably.

The increase in its acreage during the nineties was rather slow though, there being only 13,000 acres in the county in 1900. The next five years it made a remarkable increase in acreage, being over 35,000 acres in 1905, but since then the acreage has remained about stationary on the average, there being a few less acres in 1912 than there were in 1905. One of the most interesting matters in Butler county's crop statistics has been the struggle for the first place as a grain crop between corn and kafir. In 1899 there was raised in Butler county 180,553 acres of corn and 26,768 acres of kaffir or about one-seventh as much acreage. In 1912 the acreage had so changed that the acreage stood, corn 84,417, and kafir 119,304 acres. In that year assessors' returns in the county gave kafir an acreage value of \$14 per acre and white corn was rated at \$12.65. In the previous year results were even more striking as corn was rated at an average acre of \$10.62, while kafir was given a value of \$15 per acre.

These dry years since 1911 were the cause of the great preponderance of kafir. It will also be noticed in scanning statistics that the large increase in the alfalfa acreage dates from the dry year of 1901. On the other hand, after wet years, there has often been a great return to corn and the small grains, there being a considerable dislike to kafir among many farmers on account of its feeding qualities, harvesting and effect on land, but kafir will probably continue to reign supreme on the thin uplands at least, and crowd corn closely for second place on much of the better land.

The increase in cultivated acreage has not been large of late years, there being 283,281 acres in cultivation in 1900 and 291,965 acres in 1912. This small increase is probably greatly due to the large increase in im-

portance of the county's live stock interests, increased pasture rates and good prices for prairie hay in recent years. It can be remembered not many years back when pasturage rates were seventy five cents and \$1.00 per season or some years previous to that the open range was to be had. Now, \$6 to \$8 per head is a common pasturage rate.

It is very pleasing to the grain raiser to notice that in recent years the locality has had greatly increased prices. This is partly due to general conditions and also to local ones. In the past quite often the grain raised in the county was worth market price less the freight to market or perhaps the market was quite variable, there not being a steady local demand. For example: In the great corn year of 1889, corn sold in the fall from ten cents to fifteen cents per bushel; the next spring it was worth fifty cents. Fifteen cents to twenty-five cents was a common price for corn in some earlier years of the county's history. Nowadays, the old conditions of grain prices is often reversed, owing to the great local demand for grain in live stock feeding. Many communities in the county do not supply enough grain for their local demands and consequently their grain is worth market price plus the amount of freight it takes to bring it there from its point of origin or at least an approximate to that price. These conditions sometimes enable Butler county farmers to receive more than Kansas City or even Chicago prices for their feed grain, but, of course, does not apply to the food grain, wheat, as so much of it still moves East toward the center of population. The county's wheat production has remained stationary for many years, or has fallen off, since of late years has given way somewhat to more diversified farming, the acreage formerly devoted to it in the western and northern parts of the county being devoted to alfalfa or kafir in many instances.

In 1900 there was raised 11,711 acres of wheat, which was accounted an acre value of \$10.26., there being an average yield of about nineteen bushels per acre. In 1912 there was produced 9,332 acres, yielding eighting bushels per acre, but with an acre value of \$15.50, showing a much better price for the grain this year than the previous one. The oats crops also has remained rather stationary for a long term of years, being used chiefly as a rotation crop, it may vary considerably from year to year, but continues to maintain about the same acreage for ten years. In 1900 the county produced 21,492 acres of oats, and in 1912 the crop was 25,008 acres.

Farming methods have changed almost as much as the crops themselves. In early times, or perhaps it would be more proper to say during the middle ages of Butler county agriculture, the lister was almost the universal planter, but of late years it has fallen somewhat into ill-repute. More plowing is done. Better horses are available than formerly, making more and better plowing possible. The gas tractor is also becoming quite common. In fact, the farmer of a quarter of a century ago would hardly recognize the local conditions of today. Perhaps

many changes may be chronicled in the coming twenty-five years, but surely not more effective ones than in the past period of that duration. We know at least that Butler county agronomy has reached a point where it is upon a firm and stable basis.

### KAFIR CORN.

By Ed Blair.

Did you ever hear o' Kafir corn,  
That grows here where it's dry?  
Out here 'round El Dorado, Bill,  
It boasts this country high.  
D'ye know that Kafir corn and gas,  
And oil and zinc and lead  
Are just as good as real cash?  
Yet, Kafir corn's ahead.

You didn't Bill, you couldn't know,  
Unless you've been out here;  
You've got to see it with your eyes,  
Before your mind is clear.  
I didn't either, 'till I dropped  
In here t' see the show,  
And now I've joined the Boosters, Bill,  
A bunch that makes things go.

They're raisin' steers and horses here  
So big and fat and wide,  
That crossin' common bridges, Bill,  
Two can't walk side by side;  
And all they eat is Kafir corn  
From frost till early spring.  
There ain't no use a talkin', Bill,  
This Kafir corn is King.

If you should want a settin' hen  
To stay upon her nest,  
Don't let her feed on Kafir corn,  
For it wont let her rest.  
She'll Lay, from once to twice a day,  
In spite of all her frettin'.  
For Kafir corn was surely made  
To keep old hens from settin'  
Along the banks, the Kafir roots  
Stick out into the river;

You'll notice as you go along,  
 The stalks quite often quiver;  
 It's catfish nibblin' at the roots,  
 And bass 'nd crappie feedin';  
 And when they find them Kafir roots,  
 No other feed they're needin'.

The pigs get fat a browsin' 'round  
 Where Kafir corn is wasted,  
 And cakes made from the Kafir meal's  
 The best I ever tasted.  
 Some oil men tried to lease a farm  
 Last week from old man Jolly,  
 "You'll never spoil my Kafir land,"  
 Said he, "For oil, by golly."

#### THE COUNTY FARM.

The county farm was purchased during the year 1878 from William Crimble for the sum of \$4,000; afterward, during the year 1898, there was added thereto about thirty acres and the present buildings erected thereon.

As a general proposition the farm has been self-sustaining and is, of course, of much greater value today than when the county became the owner, and many persons whose lives were failures, by reason of affliction, mental and physical, have found a home therein where at least the necessities of life were furnished and where a goodly number have laid down the burden of a life that had been destitute of those things for which men strive, luxuries, enjoyment, hope or faith; inheriting and taking possession of that six feet of earth that makes all of one size, including the superintendent and the inmate.

The farm was opened for settlement in March, 1879, Robert F. Moore, of Benton township, becoming the first superintendent. Since that time there have been the following superintendents in the order named:

Robert F. Moore.....	1879-80
H. Underwood .....	1881-82
George M. Sandifer.....	1883-86
A. Aikman .....	1887
J. S. Friend.....	1888-93
W. H. Sandifer.....	1894-06
C. S. Young.....	1906-09
C. M. Dillon.....	1910-11
J. W. Marley.....	1912-15
D. F. Marley.....	1916

The first year, 1879, there were thirty-six homeless and destitute admitted, one of whom is still with the county. From the records it is practically impossible to give an estimate of the number received since the home was established. There are now, in 1916, only nine persons dependent upon the county for support at the county farm, some of whom are partially self-supporting.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY.

EARLY DAY HORSES—TROTTING STOCK—SOME FAST ONES—DRAFT HORSES  
—MULES—FIRST CATTLE—LOSSES FROM SEVERE WINTERS—CATTLE  
RAISING AS A BUSINESS—EFFECT OF HERD LAW—FIRST COWS—  
BREEDERS—FINEST HERD OF HEREFORDS IN THE WORLD.

The cayuse, broncho, mustang, Indian and Texas ponies were used for riding, driving and hauling the lighter loads. The heavier hauling was done principally by oxen, but gradually immigrants brought a higher grade of horses, and crossing with the better ones of those already here, produced a good serviceable class of horses. This continued until the standard and thoroughbred driving horses took the place of the pony stock of the early settler.

Some of the best trotting stock in the country has been bred and developed in this county. Probably the first standard bred horse brought to the county was "Champion," by Lamb, of Douglass, and the first horse to win a race, winning the sweepstakes at the Butler county fair in 1872. The next was a horse called "Kalamazoo Boy," brought from Michigan by H. M. Balch. He was driven on the track at the fairs held in El Dorado a number of times, taking first money, his record being 2:36. There were others, but the first party to enter the business of breeding and training trotting stock for sale was the late A. W. Dennison. The report of his work, as given by W. O. James, his trainer and driver, and who has driven in some of the fastest races in the State and developed greatest speed, follows:

"Back in the eighties, Judge A. W. Dennison started one of the best standard bred horse stock farms in the West. The first horses he raced were such as "Black Tom," a trotter, and the great pacer, "B. T.," and a trotter, "Slade." Then he bought the game race horse, "Egmont Chief," a great trotter in those days, and if given the same opportunity that some sires have had would rank with the best in the world. He drove him and such mares as "Eva," a trotter," and "Maggie," a pacer, and many others. Then hard times hit this county and horses were not worth much. This farm was disposed of, but time had proved his judgment was all right. Such brood mares as "Evalou," by "Egmont Chief," was bred and raised at this farm, and she was the dam of "Pierro," the greatest trotter than ever raced in Australia, and was the largest money winning trotter in that country in 1910. This mare, "Evalou," was

trained and driven by W. O. James, who effected a sale of her in Freeport, Ill., for a large sum of money, and she was exported to Australia. The same season of 1910, the dam of "Dudie Archdale," the largest money winner of that season in America, was bred and raised on this farm. "Dudie Egmont" was also by "Egmont Chief."

The blood of this farm is also showing up on many of the best horses that are now raised in Kansas and Nebraska, also in foreign countries. It was not appreciated as it ought to have been at the time and as results show it was entitled to. Such animals as "Dudie Archdale," 2:03½, etc., showing two of the best track horses ever in races, were raised in Butler county.

Next came C. B. Dillenbeck & Son, who perhaps have made more money out of the "fast horse" business of their own raising and developing than any one in the county. Their stock is known wherever horsemen get together. A list of some they developed and sold, driven principally by W. E. Dillenbeck, one of the firm, and one of the best drivers known, is furnished by the senior member: First came "Julia D.," 2:14¼, which campaigned two years and sold for \$1,000; second came "Herbert Master," 2:17½, which won every race he started in and then was shipped East and brought \$1,750; next came "Melba," 2:17¼, which we raised, and gave her the above record; then came "Daisy Dorff," 2:10½, proving to be one of the greatest race mares in Kansas; then came the great "Symbol Meath," 2:07½, raised and developed by us, winning in purses in 1913, \$3,100. We still have him and "Daisy Dorff;" also eleven head of registered mares and colts undeveloped from such brood mares as "Thisby D." and "Daisy Dorff." The bunch is very promising and we expect more 2:10 trotters from among them. Of course, there were many others engaged in the business in the county, but the above will illustrate the development of trotting stock.

The draft horses of all kinds and descriptions came in with the settlers of from about 1860, but the business of raising for market was not entered into exclusively until J. W. Robison started his Percheron farm on the Whitewater, about four miles north of Towanda, in the eighties, which was developed by him and, since his death, by his son, J. C. Robison, until its reputation is world-wide, and is one of the great live stock institutions of the country. Mr. Robison, being an importer of the finest stock of his kind money will purchase, goes personally to France, the home of the Percheron, for his supply.

"Casino," one of his importations, was a prize winner at the National live stock show of France and is the winner of 115 first and sweepstake prizes in America. The annual sales of the stock of Mr. Robison are attended by the horse buyers from throughout the United States and amount in value to many thousand dollars.

The Bishop Brothers, of Towanda, are engaged in the same line and are adding to the reputation of the Whitewater country for Percheron stock. Their sales stables are located in Towanda and their con-



stantly increasing business is the best evidence of the popularity of themselves and their stock.

The only ones now called to mind engaged in the business of raising mules for market was W. H. Bodecker, of western Butler, and William Mort, of Little Walnut, both successful in their line. There were in the county in 1916, 18,434 horses and 5,233 mules.

The first cattle brought into the county probably came without the knowledge of their owners. The change in ownership was affected between two days. Coming from Arkansas, Texas and the Indian Territory, these cattle were grazed here for a time and then marketed, either here or by driving farther north and east. Sometimes, but not often, a portion of the cattle would be recovered by the owners, and in getting possession of them it would happen occasionally that a man or two would disappear, and would not be heard from afterward.

These were the days when might made right, when courts were presided over by Judge Lynch, whose jurisdiction extended beyond that of all other courts, and sometimes beyond civilization, and whose jurors, being composed of the witnesses, seldom failed to agree upon a verdict, and instead of a hung jury, the same or something similar was applied to the defendant, so that after a few sessions of this court, the consent of the owners was first obtained before taking the cattle.

During the winter of 1860, J. D. Connor and some others had a few head of cattle, and on account of the extreme drouth, feed was very scarce, and in order to save their cattle, they went into the timber in January and February of that year and cut young elms for the cattle to feed upon, and this kept them alive until grass came. The only instance known of wintering cattle on timber and the only county in the world where it is possible to do so.

In the fall of 1872, many "through cattle" were driven up from Texas and sold to various parties. The winter of 1872 and 1873 was very severe, and practically all of these cattle died and left the owners with some experience and many hides—the removing of the hides furnishing employment during the late winter and early spring. The carcass would be fastened to something that would hold, the hide loosened on the head, and after a cut or two with a knife, a team was hitched on and started up, taking or stripping the hide from the critter.

The first man to engage in the business of raising cattle was one Penrose Johnson, north of El Dorado. Afterward he and family were drowned in the west branch of the Walnut river; this was in 1866 or 1867. He had about 100 head of cows, full blood long-horned Texans, with graded bulls brought from the east. He was followed by Mr. Harsh, father of the Harsh boys of Sycamore township.

A Mr. McCabe, father of Ex-Representative D. L. McCabe, Clint Arnold, T. W. Satchell and others, J. W. Gaskins and brother, living on the land lately leased by J. W. Teter for oil and gas purposes, handled quite a number of Indian cattle from 1868 to 1870.

About this time, John Teter commenced the business of buying, selling and speculating in cattle and was very successful. His advice to those desiring to engage in the business was, "Buy 'em young, even if you have to pay a little more than they were worth; they will grow while you sleep."

Later on, almost every farmer, especially after the Herd law had become effective, handled more or less cattle until the business of raising, buying and selling, feeding and pasturing has become of such magnitude that the county ranks first in livestock, held, fed, marketed and slaughtered in the State and the live stock has become and is the principal industry in the county, particularly in the eastern half. Not only cattle upon a thousand hills but frequently a thousand cattle upon a hill.

The early settlers will all remember the first real cow that was brought into the county. She was tied behind a prairie schooner and came at various times and in various places. She lived on the end of a lariat rope attached to a picket pin for the first six months or a year. And from this simple hint or start, has been developed an industry, that has put more money into the pockets of the people generally, more food upon the table, disposed of more crops at a better market and has done more to bring the county into prominence than any and all other industries and agencies combined—unless perhaps the oil & d gas business has been guilty of so doing within the past six months. There are now in this county more and better high grade, thoroughbred, fine blooded cattle of different breeds than any county in the world.

The Ayrshires of E. T. Harper of Benton township; the Brown Swiss by Dohlmn & Schmidt, and the Red Polled, the best in the state, by C. E. Foster of Prospect township, the Jerseys by Clyde King and Charles Coulter of El Dorado and F. W. Stewart of Long View Jersey farm of Rock Creek township, the Holsteins by Clyde Girod and J. C. Robison, of Fairview township, and others in various portions of the county, are all putting their owners on easy street.

With the greatest and finest bred herd of Herefords in the world owned, bred and sold by Col. Robert H. Hazlett at "Hazelford Place," two miles north of El Dorado, a herd that has made Butler county prominent as a fine live stock center and has brought purchasers from practically every state in the Union, including some from South America and the Hawaiian Islands, to buy at prices running from hundreds to thousands of dollars for a single individual animal.

There were in this county in 1870, the date of the first statistics, 5,536 cattle. There are now, in 1916, 123,751 head of cattle.

## CHAPTER XIX.

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### HORTICULTURE.

By J. J. Johnson.

WILD FRUITS OF PIONEER TIMES—FIRST ORCHARDS—PLANT DISEASE—INSECTS—INVESTMENT—BUTLER COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY—SUCCESSFUL FRUIT GROWERS—ORCHARDS—NATIVE TREES—NATIVE FLOWERS.

The pioneer of Butler county had but little to encourage his horticultural instinct. He found but few, if any, berries and fruit growing wild. Then there was the wide expanse of prairie without a tree or bush to greet his eye, yet along the banks of the creeks was the always inviting timber. No "Apple Seed Johnnie" had preceded the pioneer into Kansas and there were only a few wild fruits such as wild grape, plum, pawpaw, and hickberry to be had. The only edible nut was the Walnut which was abundant along the streams.

It was no fault of Mother Nature that these wide prairies were not covered with valuable trees, shrubs, and wild fruit, for the destructive prairie fires swept the prairie and took everything before them.

The pioneer, before leaving his home in the East, saw on his map that Butler county was on the border on the great American desert, and the thought of making a home in the desert or even near one was not encouraging to the easterner. One pioneer told the writer that he came with fear until he reached Fort Scott, and there he found on the surveyor's records plenty of trees such as walnut, hackberry, oak and hickory, marked as witness trees, after that he hurried to take a claim.

The walnut trees, that gave the name to our Walnut river, were the alluring "something" that caused many families to settle in Butler county.

The first orchards were planted in the bends and protected places along the streams; they surely thrived and did well in these places. A trip in the early eighties of several thousand miles from Kansas, across Missouri and Illinois and up the Ohio valley and back, revealed no apples trees finer to look at or more heavily laden with fine fruit, than these little Butler county orchards along the streams. The seedling peach and the native wild plum were the "upland" settlers' main fruit. They served the double purpose of windbrake and fruit trees.

The pioneer orchards are all gone now, for the diseases and insects

brought into the county have taken the pioneer trees as well as the present day orchards. For the same reasons it is now almost impossible to gather the wild plums that many children of the pioneer remember gathering by the tub-full. Who doesn't remember the good jam and preserves of the wild plum?

The settlers from the eastern part of the state brought with them the strawberry, blackberry, and raspberry plants and there were soon an abundance of the fruit, where the plants were set out and cared for. For some reason these berries would not grow wild in this county, even though they grew wild a few miles out of the county. In the adjoining county of Greenwood, the writer has seen the roadside literally lined with wild strawberries and the protected places along fences crowded with wild blackberry and raspberry bushes.

In the early eighties there were still many of the pioneer orchards left. Some of these apple trees measured six feet in circumference with the limbs and branches loaded with as much as forty bushels of marketable fruit. It was about this time that many orchards, in fact all the present day orchards, were set out. With these trees were brought in the many destructive diseases and insects to ruin the fruit and trees.

The study of these diseases has been nearly an impossibility on account of the nature of a plant disease. The organism causing a disease cannot be seen with the naked eye and hence it has not been known of, outside of the science laboratory. But at present the lack of knowledge of these diseases is brought home pretty close, for all our orchards and their products are being ruined by disease as well as by insects.

Without doubt the most destructive diseases, when they are present, are the rots, both black and brown rot of peach, apple, pear and plum. The apple, peach and pear scab, although bad in most localities, are not known to be present in this county. Apple blotch is a very serious disease on the fruit at present in the county. Then the blister canker is killing many of the apple trees. Of the berry diseases the cane blight and orange rust of the blackberry and raspberry and the strawberry leaf spot are the worst. Black knot of plum and peach leaf curl are very bad. Cherry leaf spot that causes the leaves to fall early in the summer will soon kill all of our cherries. The fire blight on both apple and pear are ruining those trees. These diseases are all controlled by either cutting out affected parts or spraying with different concentrations of lime sulphur or Bordeaux mixtures.

Among the insects that are spoiling our trees and their products are the codling moth, canker worm, plum curculio and apple tree borer. These may all be controlled by spraying with lime sulphur or Bordeaux mixtures which contain arsenate of lead, paris green or some similar poison.

The pioneer found conditions for growing fruits much better than now for if he could grow a good tree he was sure of a good crop of apples, at least every other year. Smudge pots, pruning, spraying and all other modern treatments were unknown.

A glance at the figures of the money paid for trees, plants, vines and other horticultural stock, with the expense of developing such fruit to bearing, we would say they were quite impossible. One man in Butler county put \$10,000 in fruit trees and the care to bring them to bearing age and \$20,000 to maintain the orchards, and yet he has never received so much as interest on his investment.

Another thing that has been much against the horticulturist is that he has planted much that was not adapted to soil and climatic conditions. This is one thing the Butler County Horticultural Society tried to eliminate. The writer has seen as fine Bellflower apple trees as ever grew and yet they would not mature one bushel of apples. The same can be said of many other varieties. Yet that desire of the homesteader to have the "old home fruit" caused them to keep planting non-adapted fruits. Then, too, we must realize that this is a stock raising county and stop to think: Is there anything in common between the common stock raiser and the horticultural farmer?

It has been a discouraging proposition for the pioneer as well as the modern horticulturalist with rabbits, grasshoppers and drouth to contend with. Is it small wonder that we have so few fruit trees when there were 100 trees in 1890 to one in 1916.

The farmers, who loved the trees, vines and other beauties of the farm, organized the Butler County Horticultural Society in 1872 with Lewis Maxwell as president and M. D. Ellis as secretary.

This society was associated with the Agricultural Society for a while, but later disunited, and the Horticultural Society held its meetings at the homes of the members. The annual all-day meetings were always very enjoyable with the dinners, papers and discussions. This was a pioneer association which the younger generation failed to keep up. The pioneer who was most prominent with this association was W. H. Litson, who did much for the horticultural interest with his advice and his nursery of all kinds of trees, shrubs and vines, which he had on his farm near Benton. J. W. Robinson was creative in all his efforts to make the farm home more beautiful with fruit, shrubs and profitable forestry. R. J. Ratts was very active in his efforts for new and better fruits. Dr. William Snyder and son had a little nursery near Towanda and to make the home more beautiful was their desire. The quaint and genial character of Charles Moinheinweg is the one character sure to be remembered by all. C. C. Armstrong, Dr. M. L. Fullinwider, E. C. Rice, T. H. Jones and J. F. Thompson were for orchards commercially, and they set out many fruit trees in different parts of the county. Rev. S. F. C. Garrison, William Price, Harry Jones, "Sorghum" Smith, L. M. Parker and John Houser were all very much interested in horticultural pursuits, and they, with many others, set out good orchards all over the county. W. E. and J. W. Boellner had a small nursery at Leon in 1884. Mr. Wender had another small nursery just west of Leon, from which some fine trees were put out. He had hundreds of varieties and some of

his trees are still in bearing. Along the Whitewater valley, J. W. Robinson set out many good orchards on his farms. In fact, almost every pioneer home had a good orchard in that part of the county. The writer will never forget the fine fruit served the Horticultural Society at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chain.

The largest orchard ever set out in Butler county was near El Dorado and owned by T. H. Jones and J. F. Thompson. There were 22,000 fruit trees and 250 acres devoted to fruit. There were 18,000 apple trees of thirty varieties; 3,000 plums of fifteen varieties; 500 peaches of twenty varieties; one acre of blackberries of three varieties; one acre of raspberries of three varieties; one-fourth acre of gooseberries of three varieties. 200 cherries of five varieties; quinces of three varieties; grape of twelve. Of all these varieties and fruits only a few paid, and of apples they were: Red June, Early Harvest, Maiden Blush, Jonathan, Grimes Golden, and Winesap. The plums and quinces never paid. Of the peaches, the Crawford, champion, and Elberta paid best. Of the apricots the Moorpark and Golden. Of the cherries the English Morella, Early Richmond and Montmorency all did well. Of the pear the Kiefer, Duchess and Seckle were best. Of the grapes the Concord and Worden; the Kittiteny blackberry, the Gregg and Mammouth cluster raspberry, and the Houton gooseberry all paid well. The orchards were set out and cared for and are now owned by the writer.

Dr. M. L. Fullinwider set out a forty-acre orchard that was the best cared for and paid best of any orchard in the county. The Ed Rice orchard never paid. The R. J. Ratts orchard was not a success, yet Mr. Ratts always had some good fruit to sell. The William Price and W. O. Rafferty orchards were both poor investments. Mr. Price cared for his orchard with much expense and grew fine trees but he never reaped what he expected.

The Jones-Thompson orchard was just about typical of all Butler county orchards. So from the records and experiences of the pioneer we can set out orchards and gardens of the best adapted varieties of fruits, and really hope to make them pay. The modern home orchard and garden should contain two Red June, two Early Harvest, two Maiden Blush, two Grimes Golden, five Jonathan and five Winesap apple trees; eight Early Richmond, two English Morella and two Montmorency cheery trees; five Champion and five Elberta peach trees; six Kiefer, three Duchess and three Seckle pear trees; 200 Kittiteny blackberry plants; 200 Kansas raspberry plants; 200 Dunlap and 200 progressive strawberry plants; twenty-five Houten gooseberry plants; twelve Concord and six Worden grape vines; 100 asparagus plants; twenty-five rhubarb plants and a bed of horseradish. With the home garden of the above varieties every home in Butler county can have an abundance of horticultural products the year around. These varieties have all been tried out on both upland and bottom land, and are most resistant of disease.

There was much more of the love for the beautiful in nature in the pioneer farmer, although he had the struggle to conquer, than the modern homemaker. In the meetings of the Horticultural Society, the only thought was to make the farm home more beautiful with nature. Is this love for nature and care for trees past? And is the tendency of the modern farmer to destroy and "clear up" so as to make more money?

The native trees are a delight to the inhabitants of the county. Our cities are among the most beautiful in the state on account of the trees. Then our streams and rivers are lined with beautiful groves. Of our shade trees the elm ranks first. The white elm is first of all other elms—the red, the water and the cork.

The burr oak is as Lowell speaks of it,

"There need no crown to mark the forest king,  
His leaves outshine full summer's bliss,  
His boughs make music of the winter air,  
He is the gem of all the landscape wide."

There are few other species of oaks in the county; among them the Chincapin and yellow oak are most plentiful.

The black walnut, hackberry, pecan and pawpaw are much appreciated because of their edible fruits and nuts. The walnut, of course, ranks first with its beautiful foliage as well as its nuts.

The mammoth cottonwood, the beautiful white limbed sycamore and the white hickory are to be found in abundance along our streams and rivers.

The coffebean, honey and black locust, boxelder, buckeye, mulberry, and black ash have their place on the prairies, in the ravines, and along our river banks.

Last, but not least, are the willows and redbud. The redbud as a prophet is known by all, for who doesn't watch for the bloom of the redbud to tell when the fish will bite?

There are only a few native cedars in the county, although cedars are the most common evergreen. The most of them are not native. The Scotch and Austrian pine and Chinese and common arbutus have all become quite well adapted to the soil of our county. The osage orange, catalpa, maple and persimmon are so well adapted to Butler county that they are often named among our native trees.

The timber along our streams and rivers has increased much since pioneer days. The pioneers set out groves of native trees on the prairie around the homestead but the prairie fires nearly ruined them. The remains can be seen of these groves but they never have really prospered. At present the natural re-forestation is doing much for our timbers and even making new groves where the young trees are allowed to grow.

The lack of education and culture did not find a place in the thoughts of the pioneer homemaker, for the flowers and natural beauties

appealed to them and made life worth living without it. The wife and mother of the home had her flower beds and flowering shrubs to care for. A pioneer home once viewed by the writer was beautiful with its tall lilac hedge, and various hedges of June roses, japonicas, and flowering almonds and currants, clumps of bridal wreath, flags and tiger lilies; the sweet williams, pinks, and many other beautiful annuals. It was not only these that made the home all that it was, for the prairie gave forth a fragrance and beauty that fixed on the memory of the natives of Butler county an everlasting heritage. From early spring with its adder's tongue, field daisies, violets, sweet williams, bleeding heart, heart's ease, wild roses, evening yellow and white primrose, mallow, foxglove, and spiderwort; to summer with its sunflower and fall with its aster, golden rod and cardinal flower. With all these beauties all around us we do not need to go abroad or even to any other state or county to see the beautiful.



## CHAPTER XX.

### OIL AND GAS.

By N. A. Yeager.

SUPPLY OF FUEL—DEEP TEST IN 1879—OTHER TESTS—FIRST COMPANY ORGANIZED TO DRILL FOR OIL—EARLY GEOLOGISTS REPORTS DISCOURAGING—COMPANY ORGANIZED AT AUGUSTA—FIRST GAS DISCOVERED WEST OF THE FLINT HILLS NEAR AUGUSTA—OTHER TESTS AND DISCOVERIES—OIL DISCOVERED—MARVELOUS DEVELOPMENT.

The municipal growth of Butler county was greatly retarded in the early settlement of the county by lack of fuel for manufacturing purposes, coal at that time being all the fuel used. It was impossible to promote manufacturing industries. The coal fields in southeastern Kansas were the only source from which they could draw. While the heavy timbered valleys of the rivers and streams in Butler county afforded ample fuel for domestic purposes, its use for industrial purposes was not practical.

The citizens of Wichita in 1879 drilled a deep test on Central avenue road, near the Butler county line, to a depth of about 1,300 feet. Their further operations were prevented by reason of the salt water. From that hole a small flow of gas escaped and for several years afterwards children in that vicinity played with the curious phenomenon. It, however, was not regarded as of any importance. This, probably, was the first indication of gas west of the Flint hills.

In 1882 a well was sunk in Riverside, El Dorado, to a depth of 900 feet. An artesian flow of salt water was obtained and a salt factory for the evaporation of this product was operated for a short time. A deep well was sunk at Potwin in 1887, by Charles W. Potwin, who owned a large body of land near that town. This well was drilled to a depth of about 800 feet but nothing of importance was discovered.

In 1878 the first company was organized in Butler county for the purpose of drilling for oil on a location southwest of El Dorado and a town was started and one or two business houses located there. The town was named Oil City. It was never incorporated, however. It was said this location was selected and revealed by a medium to some believers of the occult, as favorable for oil. This well was drilled to a depth of about 200 feet and abandoned for the want of funds and the town disappeared and the location of this hole is only known to a few of

the earlier inhabitants of the county. After the discovery of gas and oil in the Chanute and Neodesha fields there was a great deal of discussion, especially in the towns, concerning the probability of discovering minerals here.

Geologists and experienced oil and gas men were consulted but their reports were very discouraging. The universal opinion of these men was that no gas or oil existed west of the Flint Hills. It became absolutely necessary for the further development of the towns in Butler county, that gas as a fuel should be obtained.

At Augusta, a corporation was organized by the business men and farmers in that locality. It was called the Augusta Oil, Gas, Mining and



STAPLETON NO. 1 (ON THE RIGHT). FIRST PRODUCING OIL WELL IN THE EL DORADO FIELD.

Prospecting Company. In 1904, this company proceeded to sink a prospect hole near the junction of the Sante Fe and Frisco railroads at Augusta. The first hole was sunk to a depth of 1,335 feet, then the contractors abandoned the hole on account of water. A second well was drilled to a depth of 1,830 feet. At 1,415 feet a good flow of gas was discovered, which can safely be said to be the first discovery of gas west of the Flint Hills. This well was drilled to a depth of 1,830 feet, when contractors abandoned it and the hole was never sunk deeper. At the bottom of this hole a slight showing of oil was discovered but not of sufficient importance to warrant further exploration.

The Augusta Corporation surrendered its franchise to the city and

the city voted bonds and took up the development of gas for municipal purposes. During this time a deep test well was sunk in section 23-26-7, south of Rosalia by a Kansas City company. This location was selected by S. J. Hatch, a noted authority on oil and gas geology. This well was abandoned after drilling to a depth of 2,100 feet against the strong protest of this noted geologist. Some of the citizens of Augusta, in the meantime, made a study of the geological formations of this county and discovered an anti-cline in this locality, the well defined break was discovered east and south of that city on which the city located its gas wells. It might be added that these wells were not by chance, but by a



A BUTLER COUNTY OIL FIELD SCENE.

thorough study of all the geological information that could be obtained at that time.

In 1907 the Wichita Natural Gas Company drilled two test wells one southeast and one southwest of Augusta. A Wichita corporation also drilled a test well to a depth of 1,600 feet in the same year in section 6, Bloomington township, without results. Tests for this gas sand were also made at Benton and El Dorado and Douglass without apparent results. The Wichita Natural Gas Company drilled three wells in the Augusta field, near the city wells, and obtained gas to supply their line to El Dorado. Further development for gas ceased until 1910 when the Skaer Oil and Gas Company commenced to develop its leaseholds, after

which the Wichita Natural Gas Company secured leases and proceeded to further develop the gas field. The first deep test for oil was made on the northwest quarter of 21-28-4 by the Wichita Natural Gas Company. At present it extends practically across the county from north to south, the heaviest deposits discovered being in the vicinity of Augusta and El Dorado. There are at the present time, June, 1916, about 150 producing gas and 50 oil wells in the Augusta field and about 160 now in process of development and about 200 oil wells with some heavy gas producers in the El Dorado field, with prospecting rigs so numerous that it has the appearance of a forest. Much of the oil in the El Dorado field is found at a depth of from 500 to 700 feet while the best producers are from 2,000 to 2,600 feet in the balance of the Butler county field.

On account of the low price of oil and the monopoly of the leases in the vicinity, the development was greatly retarded. The development of gas has been lost sight of in the mad scramble for oil and many valuable gas wells have been mudded in, or wasted to procure the more valuable product, and it may be regarded as a safe estimate that sufficient gas is now being wasted and used in drilling in the Butler county field to supply the domestic consumption for one-half the population of the state of Kansas.

The extent and value of the oil field is yet unknown and cannot now be estimated and future development can alone determine. The prices paid the land owner for privilege of prospecting, speculating and developing are of such magnitude that the average man looks on with amazement, and all fail to comprehend the wonderful change in conditions. The passing from daily toil to affluence is taking place so fast and so frequent among those unaccustomed to wealth that the fairy stories of boyhood, tales of the miraculous and the ordinary brainstorm become tame in comparison therewith and how to invest or what to do with the wealth thus suddenly acquired is a problem difficult for them to solve. No people on earth are more entitled to the prosperity attendant upon this industry than the people of Butler county, none could appreciate it more and among no others would humanity be more greatly benefited or a general welfare of the people be advanced to a larger extent.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

By J. B. Adams.

PRESENT PROSPEROUS CONDITIONS—NUMBER OF BANKS IN THE COUNTY—FIRST BANK—SECOND AND THIRD BANKS—FIRST NATIONAL BANK—EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK—FOURTH BANK IN EL DORADO—ED. C. ELLET—OFFICERS AND CAPITAL—CITIZENS STATE BANK—BUTLER COUNTY STATE BANK—EXCHANGE STATE BANK—STATE BANK OF LEON—PEOPLES STATE BANK, LATHAM—BANK OF WHITEWATER—PEOPLES STATE BANK, WHITEWATER—TOWANDA STATE BANK—ROSE HILL STATE BANK—ROSALIA STATE BANK—BEAUMONT STATE BANK—CHARACTER OF BANKS—BANK COMMISSIONER.

The banks of Butler county at this date, May 1, 1916, are very prosperous, and their prosperity is merely an index to the financial condition of the people of Butler county. The banks in El Dorado city hold at this time \$1,700,000 of deposits and the banks outside of El Dorado hold at this time the aggregate of \$1,600,000, making the total bank deposits of Butler county foot up the extraordinary total of \$3,300,000. With a population of less than 21,000 on March 1, 1915, this makes right at \$150 for every man, woman and child in the county.

Very few counties in the United States can point to so large an aggregation of deposits in proportion to the population. It must also be remembered that only a small part of this aggregate is due to the oil field that is just now opening up so wonderfully, since the total bank deposits of Butler county are only \$200,000 greater than they were a year ago on this date and a portion of this increase is at the same time due to the good crops of 1915 and the higher prices prevailing for agricultural products in consequence of the European war. In fact, the oil field has created a drain upon deposits through the processes of development and investment to such an extent that it may be that the entire increase of deposits is due to agriculture and the great cattle industry of this county. Indeed, it is not certain that deposits would not have been larger at this time had the oil field not have been discovered. Of course, it is certain that from the opening of the field enormous increase in banking deposits will ultimately result, insuring immeasurably to the benefit and prosperity of all the people of Butler county.

There are now the following banks in Butler county: Eldorado—The Farmers and Merchants National Bank, the El Dorado National

Bank, the Citizens State Bank and the Butler County State Bank, Augusta—The George W. Brown & Son State Bank and the First National Bank. Douglass—The Exchange State Bank and the State Bank of Douglass. Whitewater—The Bank of Whitewater and the Peoples State Bank. Leon—The State Bank of Leon. Latham—The People's State Bank. Benton—Benton State Bank. Towanda—The Towanda State Bank. Potwin—The Potwin State Bank. Rose Hill—The Rose Hill State Bank. Elbing—The Elbing State Bank. Cassoday—The Cassoday State Bank. Rosalia—The Rosalia State Bank. Beaumont—The Beaumont State Bank. Andover—The Andover State Bank.

The first bank established in Butler county was the Walnut Valley Bank, a private bank, organized by J. S. Danford, J. C. Fraker, W. P. Gossard and C. M. Foulks. Mr. Foulks was one of the pioneers of Butler county and a partner of N. F. Frazier in the mercantile business and father of J. C. Foulks, who is now one of the bank examiners of Kansas, and a resident of El Dorado. The bank was first established where C. H. Selig's drug store now stands and was shortly moved across the street on the lot now owned by M. J. Long, next door south of the present Butler County State Bank. This was in 1871. The building, a frame structure, now occupied by James Dodwell, pioneer harness maker, was the bank's home, constructed on the M. J. Long lot. John Campbell, now a printer in San Diego, Cal., was assistant cashier of this first bank of Butler county.

The next bank established in Butler county was the Brown Brothers' Bank at Augusta, now the George W. Brown & Son State Bank of Augusta. George W. Brown, now deceased and at the time of his death one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest, man Butler county ever produced, and his brother, C. W. Brown, now a prominent banker and wealthy citizen of Wichita, came here from Iowa, looking for a location. They came by Stage from Abilene and dropped in on J. H. Betts and N. F. Frazier, who were running one of the pioneer mercantile establishments in El Dorado. Finding that a bank had already been established in El Dorado, they went to Augusta where the United States land office was located. Mr. Betts said they were so anxious to get to Augusta that they did not wait for the stage but took their luggage and walked to Augusta and decided to move their Brown Brothers' Bank which they had established in Iowa in 1869, and this they did in 1872. The bank afterwards became George W. Brown & Son's State Bank. C. W. Brown selling his interest and moving to Wichita and Warren E. Brown, the only son of George W. Brown, becoming associated with his father. W. E. Brown still owns and runs this bank at Augusta and is recognized as one of the most conservative and successful bankers and business men in Kansas and is perhaps today the richest man in Butler county. The father, George W. Brown, whose name stood always for stability, safety and integrity of the highest order in Butler county, died in February, 1915, at an advanced age. The third bank established in Butler county

was the First National Bank of El Dorado on the conspicuous and historic corner of Main street and Central avenue in El Dorado. The present two-story brick building now occupied by the present Farmers and Merchants National Bank, was erected in 1873 by Gordy & Gault, as the home of the First National Bank, promoted by J. S. Danford and J. C. Fraker and absorbing the Walnut Valley Bank. This bank was sold by Danford to W. P. Gossard and his son, Alvin Gossard, and soon failed. It is said by old timers that the bank was in a failing condition when bought by the Gossards and that they were deceived at the time of the purchase as to the bank's real condition. Feeling aggrieved because he had a small deposit in the failed bank, T. O. Shinn, afterward a lawyer of prominence in Butler county, visited the home of W. P. Gossard, and Mr. Gossard was shot. Mr. Shinn was generally believed to have fired the shot, but was tried and the jury failing to agree, the case was never tried again. The Gossards were fine men of excellent character and were not criticised for the failure by those who were familiar with the conditions and circumstances under which they bought the bank. The fact that they lost all they had themselves was conclusive evidence of their good faith. Another bank failure occurring in Butler county was a small bank at Whitewater, which had been moved over from the neighboring town of Brainerd and failed about the year 1890. G. P. Neiman, now cashier of the Bank of Whitewater, a pioneer of Butler county and one of the safest and most successful bankers and business men in the county, was the receiver of this bank.

The First National Bank of El Dorado, after its failure, was succeeded by the Exchange Bank of El Dorado, founded by S. L. Shotwell, now deceased, and Niel Wilkie, now a respected citizen of Douglass in this county. It afterwards became the historic Exchange National Bank, which, in its palmyest days, had \$100,000.00 capital and a large surplus. A. L. Redden was president and H. H. Gardner, cashier. Judge Redden was at one time district judge and one of the leading lawyers of Kansas. H. H. Gardner, a native of Canada and a pioneer merchant of El Dorado, was one of the best known bankers in the state, and helped to found and organize the Kansas Bankers' Association in connection with John R. Mulvane of Topeka and a few other prominent bankers of the state. George W. Brown of Augusta was vice president of the bank and J. D. Rearick, one of the clearest headed and shrewdest men ever engaged in the banking business in Butler county, as assistant cashier. F. R. Dodge, an educated gentleman, a fine penman and an expert accountant, was bookkeeper in this bank for twenty years. Failing health caused him to resign and he went back to his old home in Ohio and died a few years ago.

The Exchange National Bank finally passed into the entire control of George W. Brown of Augusta, after many stormy incidents in its career. Mr. Brown as vice president and a large stockholder being compelled to come to its rescue, in which he was associated with his brother,

C. W. Brown. Finally on January 1, 1897, Mr. Brown sold the bank to the Farmers and Merchants National Bank and the two banks were consolidated. Robert H. Hazlett, N. F. Frazier, E. C. Ellett and H. H. Gardner were the officers and largest stockholders of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank at this time.

The fourth bank established in El Dorado was a partnership private bank owned by N. F. Frazier and E. C. Ellet, now a banker of Mayfield, California. It was known as the Bank of El Dorado. Messrs. Frazier and Ellet conducted it most successfully, building it up from \$10,000.00 capital to \$80,000.00 out of its own earnings. They sold the bank after several years to W. T. Clancy, a wealthy and successful man, who afterwards liquidated it, confining himself to the loaning of his own funds. The sale to Mr. Clancy took place in about 1888. The next bank organized in El Dorado was the Merchants Bank, with Gen. Alfred W. Ellet as president and N. F. Frazier as cashier. This bank became the Merchants National Bank of El Dorado, with Mr. Frazier and Ed C. Ellet the leading stockholders. In 1892 Mr. Hazlett bought a big block of stock in this bank, and it was called the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, with Mr. Hazlett as president; G. H. Parkhurst, vice president, and Ed C. Ellet, cashier. Mr. Parkhurst was succeeded in the vice presidency by H. H. Gardner, who had been cashier of the Exchange National Bank.

Ed C. Ellet, now of Mayfield, Cal., was a leading factor in the banking business of El Dorado for twenty-five years and one of the most public-spirited and patriotic men, as well as one of the ablest, who ever lived in Butler county. Belonging to an old, wealthy and distinguished family and having a keen interest in all public matters, he was always a leader of great influence and power.

The leading banks of Butler county are now officered as follows: Farmers and Merchants National Bank of El Dorado, \$50,000 capital; \$50,000 surplus; A. J. Holderman, president; C. C. Shriver, vice president; William I. Shriver, cashier; A. B. Ewing, assistant cashier. C. C. Shriver and William I. Shriver own a controlling interest and are very wealthy men, of fine character. El Dorado National Bank, \$50,000 capital; \$23,000 surplus; Robert H. Hazlett, president; J. E. Dunn, vice president; Robert H. Bradford, cashier, and S. R. Clifford, assistant cashier. Robert H. Hazlett and his nephew, Robert H. Bradford, own a controlling interest. Mr. Hazlett is the largest landowner in Butler county; owns one of the finest and largest herds of registered Hereford cattle in the United States, is president of the American Hereford Breeders' Association and is believed by many to be the richest man in Butler county. He is a shrewd, far-seeing, hard-working business man, giving careful and intelligent attention to his varied and extensive interests and is one of the most public spirited men in Butler county.

Citizens State Bank of El Dorado, \$50,000 capital; \$28,000 surplus; R. E. Frazier, president; N. F. Frazier, Jr., active vice president; W. E.



Brown, vice president; C. E. Thompson, cashier, and F. H. Cron, assistant cashier. R. E. and N. F. Frazier, Jr., own a controlling interest in this bank and are sons of N. F. Frazier, who died on August 8, 1907. N. F. Frazier came to El Dorado in 1868, and was first associated with J. H. Betts in the mercantile business, but soon devoted himself largely to banking, and at the time of his death, had accumulated one of the largest estates ever left in Butler county. The writer was associated with him for many years in the banking business in El Dorado. His interests were numerous and most extensive; he was an indefatigable worker; a man of indomitable purpose and courage; a stickler for fidelity and loyalty who made his word as good as a bond and required others to do the same; and was not only considered so by many, but was one of the shrewdest, keenest, boldest and safest business men and bankers that the State of Kansas ever produced. I pay this tribute to his memory in this special way, lest such an opportunity may never again present itself for my so doing.

Butler County State Bank of El Dorado, \$25,000 capital; \$7,000 surplus; C. L. King, president; E. F. Adams, vice president; J. B. Adams, cashier; H. F. Ferry, assistant cashier; L. D. Hadley, teller. J. B. Adams owns a controlling interest in this bank, which was founded on June 5, 1909, and is the last bank to be established in El Dorado. George W. Brown & Son State Bank of Augusta, capital \$25,000; surplus, \$25,000; I. M. Brown, president; W. E. Brown, cashier; R. A. Haines, assistant cashier. W. E. Brown owns a controlling interest in this bank, a fuller history of which is heretofore given. First National Bank of Augusta, \$25,000 capital; \$7,000 surplus; F. H. Penley, president, and W. A. Penley, cashier, is a substantial institution, with a constantly increasing business.

Exchange State Bank of Douglass, \$25,000 capital; \$8,000 surplus; D. P. Blood, president; W. E. Brown, vice president; C. P. Blood, cashier; A. B. Chauncey, assistant cashier. D. P. Blood and his son, C. P. Blood, own a controlling interest. D. P. Blood, the president, is one of the pioneers of Butler county. He first established himself in the mercantile business at Augusta and afterwards at Douglass and was very successful. He is a large landowner and one of the very wealthy men of Butler county. By close attention to business, sound judgment, high character and absolute fidelity and integrity, he has built up a fortune and gained the respect and confidence of the people of his community and county. State Bank of Douglass, \$10,000 capital; \$10,000 surplus; J. E. House, president; J. B. Adams, vice president; J. A. Middlekauff, cashier; and O. P. Cottman, assistant cashier. J. A. Middlekauff owns a controlling interest in this bank and is one of the safest and most conservative as well as successful bankers in Butler county. He devotes himself exclusively to banking and stands very high among the bankers of the county.

State Bank of Leon, \$10,000 capital; \$5,000 surplus; M. W. Mar-

shall, president, and W. S. Marshall, cashier, own a controlling interest. The bank has its home in the Marshall building, built in honor of the father, H. H. Marshall, now deceased, who was a pioneer, a man of great business capacity and unswerving integrity and who accumulated in his lifetime one of the largest estates ever left in Butler county. The Marshall building is one of the finest in Butler county, although located in the fourth town in size.

Peoples State Bank of Latham, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$10,000; J. P. Garnett, president, and J. Ed Rankin, cashier, own a controlling interest and are among the best business men in Butler county with an institution of which they may well be proud.

Bank of Whitewater, \$50,000, capital and surplus; is one of the strong banks in Butler county; I. H. Neiman, president; George P. Neiman, cashier, and J. D. Joseph, assistant cashier, make a strong combination. I. H. and G. P. Neiman are pioneers of the county, large land-owners and business men of exceptional character and capacity. Mr. Joseph is, at present, State senator from Butler county, and is not only a splendid banker but a splendid public man of unusual ability and unquestioned patriotism.

Peoples State Bank, Whitewater; capital, \$15,000; surplus, \$10,000; W. M. Finch, president; G. B. Hanstine, cashier. W. H. Barker, one of the substantial men of the community, is vice president. The bank enjoys a growing and prosperous business. Benton State Bank, Benton; capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$16,000; is one of the strong small banks of the county; James Parks, president; L. L. Lane, vice president; Clyde McGrew, cashier. Mr. McGrew, the cashier, is recognized as one of the most careful, able and successful bankers in the county.

Towanda State Bank, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$10,000; J. C. Kullman, president; A. C. Higgins, vice president; F. W. Robison, cashier. Mr. Robison belongs to one of the oldest and richest families in the county and is one of the best business men in the county. He gives close personal attention to his business, and his bank is constantly growing. Potwin State Bank, capital, \$14,000; surplus, \$15,000; J. S. Joseph, president; H. A. Kathis, cashier; J. O. Litner, assistant cashier. This bank was founded by William I. Joseph in 1904, and is a very strong institution. The president, J. S. Joseph, is one of the wealthy and able business men of the county, and is widely known for his integrity and ability.

Rose Hill State Bank, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$10,000; James McCluggage, president; W. N. Harris, vice president; J. F. McCluggage, cashier; F. J. McCluggage, assistant cashier. The controlling interest is owned by the McCluggage family, one of the oldest and strongest in the county. Elbing State Bank, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$5,000; H. Jansen, president; E. W. Melend, vice president; D. C. Crosby, cashier. Mr. Crosby is one of the most careful and thorough business men, and the condition of his bank reflects his ability.

Rosalia State Bank, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$3,000; R. H. Hazlett, president; F. S. Liggett, vice president; J. H. Liggett, cashier. This is one of the new banks of the county and is under able management. Cassoday State Bank, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$3,000; L. Harsh, president; O. S. Reed, vice president; Lyman D. Benton, cashier. Mr. Harsh is one of the old pioneers of the county and a very wealthy man. Mr. Benton is a very capable young man with more than usual business ability, and while Cassoday is an inland town the bank is prospering, and the town is growing.

Beaumont State Bank, capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$6,000; James Edgar, recently deceased and one of the splendid men of Butler county, president; W. H. Squires, vice president; F. T. Hopp, cashier; J. C. Squier, assistant cashier. Mr. Hopp was trained in a Kansas City bank, and is making a fine success of the Beaumont Bank, which is one of the new banks of the county. The Andover State Bank is just started. S. B. McClaren is president and is one of the successful business men of Butler county, recently removed to Wichita.

Butler county is fortunate in the kind and character of her banks. They are well officered and well managed and command the confidence of the people. Every bank, though many are small, is strong, the bankers of the county are friendly and co-operative and work together for the strength of their respective institutions and for the general welfare. The old bank fights of early days are a thing of the past and the banks co-operate for the public good and the general welfare, better perhaps than in any other county in the state.

I have written into this record the exact facts as nearly as they can be ascertained and trust that any inaccuracies that might possibly be found will be but very slight, as I am firmly convinced they are.

Butler county is signally honored at this time in having the bank commissioner of Kansas, in the person of Hon. William F. Benson, who, for many years, was active vice president of the Citizens State Bank of this city. Mr. Benson was appointed to this position two years ago by Gov. George H. Hodges, who had served in Kansas State senate with Mr. Benson when Mr. Benson represented Butler county. Mr. Benson has made an ideal commissioner, his knowledge of practical banking, his long experience and sound common sense, being the necessary requisites to the proper conduct of his office.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

By F. S. Allen.

MYSTERIOUS SWITCHBOARD—FIRST TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT EL DORADO—BUTLER COUNTY TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC COMPANY—GROWTH OF BUSINESS—MISSOURI AND KANSAS TELEPHONE COMPANY—OFFICERS—CHARLES H. PARKER.

About the year 1883, a certain electrical construction company, located in the eastern part of the United States, was manufacturing a telephone switchboard which was an infringement on the then existing patents covering such apparatus, and a far-sighted Uncle Samuel, ever mindful of the protection granted to struggling inventors, decided that the switchboard above mentioned should not be allowed to endure and thrive. So an order was sent out that these boards should be confiscated, wherever found. It so happened that there was, at that time, in use at Peabody, Kansas, equipment of this make, and in order to destroy it, government agents one day went to Peabody to take the board, but when they arrived there, there was not a sign of any such apparatus. These officials hunted high and low for several months and finally gave up their search, and the disappearance of the old Peabody switchboard became one of the mysteries of early day telephony in southern Kansas.

Several years later, sometime in the late nineties, O. R. Cline, now a resident of Long Beach, Cal., after considerable hard work and many vicissitudes, started a small telephone exchange at El Dorado, county seat of Butler county, Kansas. "Started" is the right word to use in this connection, for as far as we can learn, there was never a real organization of a company or formal opening of the exchange. Our pioneers in the telephone game were untutored in the profession, and for the most part, men of small means, and their exchanges grew only as they accumulated the money to extend their lines. Well, any way, when the exchange started at El Dorado, there, as natural as life and just as crude as ever, stood the old outlawed switchboard which years before had disappeared from Peabody. It is said that to this day, never a man has been found that could tell of the "doing's" of the old board from the time it "strayed" from Peabody, until it was "discovered" at El Dorado.

And that, dear reader, is about all that I can tell you of the beginning of what has, until recently, been known as the Butler County

Telephone and Electric Company. It is known that for some years Mr. Cline conducted an exchange at El Dorado, and that the exchange grew under his management, and then the possibilities of the new industry beginning to make themselves known, a company was organized, on a sound financial basis, and this company bought out Mr. Cline. The exchange at El Dorado thus became the nucleus and headquarters of the Butler County Company.

The stock of the Butler County Telephone and Electric Company was all held by parties in Butler county. The organizers and officers were not telephone men, and it soon became apparent that someone with a broad knowledge of the business should have active management of the affairs of the company and about this time there was recommended to them a young man then connected with the Central Union Telephone Company, operating in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, who desired to avail himself of Horace Greeley's famous advice, and came west where there was to be found health, wealth and happiness. After certain encouraging correspondence, this young man came to El Dorado, and as he and company decided that they should be mutually benefitted by the connection he was offered the superintendency of the company, and accepted it, and Charles H. Parker thus became associated with the strong directorate of men in charge of the affairs of the organization.

Under Mr. Parker's supervision, proper construction, operating and maintenance methods were put into effect and with good service and extensive toll connections and courteous treatment, it was soon found that the company was taxed to its utmost to provide facilities for the ever-increasing business, but it has always endeavored to take care of the demand for rural service and toll business. Toll circuits were constructed to reach every point in Butler county, and were met at certain points by lines of the Missouri & Kansas Telephone Company thereby giving the local organization long distance service to all Bell points. In time it was necessary to build a modern plant at El Dorado, and in addition exchanges were opened at Augusta, Douglass, Towanda, Benton, Leon and Chelsea. From the sixty stations purchased from Mr. Cline, the company grew, in a few years, to over 2200 stations, and over 400 miles of toll circuits.

It was about this time that oil and gas activities began to manifest themselves in Butler county, and the company, realizing that they could not hope to keep up with the growth of business and population, and believing that the interests of the people could best be served by a larger and more extensive operating company, an offer was made to the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company, which purchased the entire holding of the Butler county company. The deal was closed early in March, 1916. The Butler county company operated the property until April 1, at which time the active management was taken over by the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company.

A word should be said regarding the men who for years so success-

fully conducted the affairs of the old Butler county organization. The president was A. J. Holderman, president of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of El Dorado, and for years a member of the State legislature; vice president, John Ellis, retired farmer and vice president of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank; secretary, F. S. Allen, abstractor, and Superintendent Charles H. Parker. Besides these men, on the Board of Directors were: W. F. Benson, state bank examiner; R. H. Hazlett, president, El Dorado National Bank; W. I. Shriver, cashier, Farmers and Merchants National Bank, and R. H. Julian, a druggist. These men are all substantial business men of El Dorado and have the entire confidence of their neighbors and associates. They have helped to make El Dorado the thriving commercial and agricultural center that it is.

Charles H. Parker, who has been retained by the Missouri & Kansas Telephone Company as district manager of the newly created El Dorado district of the western division, began his telephone career at the age of sixteen as a groundman for the Central Union Telephone Company in central Illinois, and remained with that company for twelve years, acting in many capacities, having been local and district manager at several exchanges. He came west because he thought there were better opportunities for a young man, and has never regretted that he took the step.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOLS.

By H. I. French.

FIRST SCHOOL—DIFFICULTIES OF EARLY ORGANIZATION—EARLY NORMAL INSTITUTES—FIRST TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS—COURSE OF STUDY PROVIDED—FIRST COMMENCEMENT—FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN EL DORADO—BARNES LAW SCHOOLS—SPECIAL COURSES—BARNES HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE—RURAL SCHOOL CONTESTS—EARLY TEACHERS—EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL—SUPERINTENDENTS—CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING BURNED—DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS.

The first school was held at Chelsea in 1860. Miss Sarah Satchell was the teacher. It was a private school which interested families supported. Other communities grouped themselves similarly and after D. L. McCabe, the first superintendent, was duly qualified for duty, these groups were organized according to law as school districts with indefinite boundaries, and were numbered in order of organization from one to ten. The attitude of the early settlers on the school question is thus set forth in an annual report of 1870: "Our citizens have shown a commendable spirit in making provision for the support of schools. Scarcely has the settler built his cabin and planted an acre of ground before he has inquired, 'Where is the school?' And, forthwith, as by the touch of some magic wand a district has been organized and a school commenced."

The succeeding superintendents continued the formation and organization of school districts. But the work grew more difficult as the number increased, and the first districts were reduced to form them. The paralyzing effect of these perfunctory matters on the school work of the early superintendents is set forth by Samuel S. Shotwell in his second annual report (September, 1871): "The organization of school districts and the alteration of district lines should be in the hands of the county commissioners. The superintendent's usefulness is much impaired by this duty, as it is hardly possible to make the lines of districts suit all. Some one must be in a corner, and those who feel especially aggrieved charge the superintendent with the whole blame and are ready to oppose any measures he may suggest for the betterment of the schools." And in 1874, at the close of the "grasshopper year," Superintendent S. L. Roberts reports: "Districting is still a bone of contention

here. One year more—had times remained prosperous—and this unpleasant work would be finished." It took six years longer, however, for it was not until about 1880 that the 168 districts of the county took their present form and were outlined by Superintendent J. W. Shively in the record book still in use.

The State law made it the duty of the county superintendent to hold a normal institute. The first one was held at El Dorado the last week in September, 1871. Prof. Lee of Leavenworth was present two days and forty teachers were in attendance. Several of them rendered valuable assistance in the conduct of the exercises. The normal institute has been held annually since that time. It has been a wholesome force in the intellectual growth of the county. Except for one session held at Augusta in April, 1872, the meetings have always been held at the county seat. There has been considerable variation in attendance, in purpose, and in methods of work. About 1892 saw the high water mark in attendance, when over 300 were enrolled. The work then was purely academic. The young people came from the common schools. Very few had any high school or college training. The efficiency of the times in this way kept pace with the needs and requirements. A few years later such preparation did not satisfy the modern requirements of education. Now at least 95 per cent. of the attendance have had high school training and many have college work to their credit. The summer sessions of the State schools and colleges have become successful rivals for the attendance of the teachers, and the laws of 1915 provide for a change from the four-week to a five-day institute, with a consequent rearrangement of the course for methods and professional work alone.

The first County Teachers' Association was held at the close of the first institute in 1871. Its purpose was "to advance the educational interests of the county, to aid in educational reforms and to disseminate correct views of education and create a public sentiment in their favor." It has persisted through the years for its value was soon seen. It provided for the personal contact and direct discussion of the teacher's daily problems as well as for inspirational talks from educational leaders. In later years it has been more directly influential in the daily work than ever before. Attendance is required as a part of the professional work of the teacher and the school boards pay \$1 as expense to the teacher for each meeting attended. It has been broken up into grade, rural and high school sections, with discussions adapted to each section; and the teachers feel a personal interest and responsibility.

Courses of study were provided by the State in the early seventies, but in the true sense of the word there were no grade schools in those days. At El Dorado and Augusta in 1874 there were more than one department and a consequent separation of pupils according to age, but the course was not followed according to law. Gradually the two-teacher schools, or graded schools, were able to follow the courses of study, but it was long the custom in the rural schools to begin at the



first of the book at the opening of school and read through the readers and work as far as possible in the arithmetic; and next term to repeat the process. The adoption of a uniform series of text books and the lengthening of the school term from three months to seven, in 1911, at last enabled the rural schools to get on a grade basis. Now the course of study is closely followed and pupils complete the common school work in nine years in the rural schools.

In 1890, fifty pupils took the examination for a common school diploma; in 1900 there were 143. The first commencement for these pupils was held by C. W. Thomas, in 1903. There were sixty graduates. Exercises have been held each year since that time. By 1914 the attendance and interest in these occasions had so increased that it was necessary to hold them in the park. In 1915 there were over 400 applicants, including those carrying grades, and 236 graduates. The commencement exercises were held in Gordy park in June and were attended by a large number of pupils and patrons from all parts of the county. College presidents, senators and governors have given addresses at these occasions.

The first school house in El Dorado was a log cabin. In 1872, there were twenty-eight log school houses and five of brick and stone. By 1874 there were seventy-four frame and thirteen stone school houses. At the present time there are 136 rural school houses. The frame buildings of those earlier days were suited to their times. That many of them should be still in use is the inconsistency. The towns changed readily to buildings of the modern type. The Barnes law requires certain material equipment in buildings and apparatus. The ten schools meeting these requirements all have good modern structures. The five other grade schools have very satisfactory buildings. The legislature of 1915 arranged for a rural school inspector to give State recognition to districts maintaining standard rural schools. Modern buildings, with walks, trees, shrubs, proper lighting, and in all ways approaching the sanitation and conveniences of the town school are required. Five schools are meeting these requirements at the present time.

Butler county did not embrace the opportunity to organize a county high school under the provisions of 1897. This left it free to profit by the provisions of the Barnes law of 1905. This gave a great impetus to secondary education and existing high schools were enlarged and strengthened. One or two-teacher schools at Rose Hill, Andover, Latham and Towanda have in the ten years developed into fully accredited high schools, with three or four teachers in the grades. Barnes schools are democratic, providing free high school courses almost at the door of pupils and keeping the pupils in touch with the farm home instead of educating them away from it. Barnes schools, with two courses and fully accredited, are now maintained at El Dorado, Augusta, Douglass, Rose Hill, Andover, Towanda, Potwin, Leon, Latham and Whitewater.

State funds for maintaining courses in agriculture, domestic science

and normal training in these schools are also provided. In the six years since the normal training classes have been organized scores of young teachers, graduates of high schools and recognized by the State by normal training certificates, have taken up the work of teaching. This has raised the professional standard for teachers and given a higher professional ideal.

In 1911 and 1912 the superintendents of the Barnes schools organized the Barnes High School League for contests in debate, oratory, reading and track work. The first president was H. I. French, then of the Leon schools. The first meet was held at El Dorado. This has been an incentive to the intellectual development as well as to the physical development of all pupils in these high schools and, reflexly, to all pupils in the county. It has sharpened the respect of one school for another. Douglass especially has profited by the opportunities offered, for, in 1904, the superintendent of that school arranged for the first track meet ever held in the county between the high school and a team from Southwestern. And the little boys who watched that day have carried off the lion's share of the honors for Douglass, but trophy cups and pennants have gone to every part of the county.

The rural schools have had their contests, too. In 1913 and 1914 a county-wide contest in spelling was arranged for both grade and rural schools. In 1914 and 1915 a high school section was added and an inter-county meet held at Wichita. The young people of Butler had become so thorough in the work that they took all the honors in this contest with representatives from Cowley, Sumner, Sedgwick and Harper. Agricultural contests, reading contests, school displays of various sorts have also been had. We mention these things because it shows the deeper interest of our people in the more vital side of educational training. The vision now is not the letter of the text book, but an efficiency, a comprehension of what it requires to make life worth living, home a pleasure, the State and nation a benefactor to every individual, regardless of wealth or social position.

The first school house in El Dorado was a log cabin, which was built by public subscription, perhaps in 1866, in which Jane Wentworth taught a class of about fifteen pupils. In 1866 and 1870 the old stone building which stood on the corner of First and Washington, opposite the residence of Mrs. George Ellis, was erected at the cost of about \$2,000. The first regular school was conducted in this building in the winter of 1869, by Dr. Edwin Cowles. From that time on the teachers in charge of the city schools have been: 1870, T. R. Wilson; 1871, John Snyder; 1872, Charles Moore; 1873, J. C. Elliott; 1874 and 1875, E. C. Brooks; 1876, Z. M. Riley; 1877, George Edwards; 1878, 1879 and 1880, E. W. Hulse.

The El Dorado high school was organized in 1881, under the superintendency of E. W. Hulse, who continued as the superintendent through the year of 1882. The superintendents since the organization of the high

school have been; 1882, E. W. Hulse; 1883, Alfred McCaskey; 1884 and 1885, O. E. Olin; 1887 and 1888, H. C. Ford; 1889, C. F. Gates; 1890 and 1891, W. H. Ferich; 1892 to 1898, inclusive, Lemuel Tomlin; 1899 to 1903, inclusive, W. M. Sinclair; 1904, Ida Capen Flemming; 1905, C. A. Strong; 1906 to 1909, inclusive, Warren Baker; 1910 to 1912, inclusive, B. F. Martin; 1913 and 1914, J. B. Heffelfinger; 1915 and 1916, J. W. Murphy.

The Central school building was discovered to be on fire at 2:30 o'clock a. m., Thursday, by E. B. Cook and others, who immediately notified the neighbors. H. W. Schmucher, who lives just north, says the fire was burning fiercely in the west room of the lower story when he was called at 2:30 o'clock. The Central office notified the boy at Stinson's barn, but it was nearly 3 o'clock before the fire bell rang. Hose carts arrived, but too late to be of any avail. The night was very cold, with a biting northeast wind. Many people in the immediate neighborhood knew nothing of the fire until the building was completely enveloped, while two-thirds of the town knew nothing of it until after school hours this morning. Dozens of children went to school this morning who knew nothing of the fire until they saw the blackened ruins of their school house, while many went home with the tears streaming down their faces as they in their little hearts mourned the disaster.

El Dorado boomed mightily along in 1870, 1871 and 1872. The little walnut frame house, that stood back from Main street, and near where the Haines store now is, had been abandoned and a one-story stone building, 24x40, was put up on lots 6 and 7, costing \$1,000 dollars. School opened in this building in October, 1870, with seventy-six pupils, with William Price as teacher. Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were voted in 1871. Charles Wait drew the plans for a square, barn-looking building, with peep holes for windows, and a man by the name of Richards, of Humboldt, came over and put up the building. It was partly finished and ready for occupancy in the summer of 1872, and on September 23 sixty-five teachers attended the county institute, held in the new building. S. L. Shotwell was county superintendent. Dr. Gordon, H. T. Sumner and E. L. Wheeler were the school board. Before school opened, in September, the building was used for dances. Mrs. Murdock, who was then unmarried, came out from Maryland to organize and take charge of the school. She opened the first schools in the building, there being no stoves and but few seats, the upper room being unfinished. Charles Moore and Miss Hattie Gartman were the assistant teachers. They found it rather hard sledding that winter, as the building was as cold as a barn. In November, 1872, S. L. Robards was elected county superintendent; in January he appointed Nettie O'Daniel and Rev. W. M. Stryker as associate county examiners.

Mrs. Nettie O'Daniel, "principal of the El Dorado Academy," called a public meeting for the purpose of raising money to buy a school bell. Henry Fall, mayor, and others signed the call. W. M. Stryker and Mrs.

O'Daniel pushed it along and raised the money to buy the bell that has been so long in use in the Central building, which went to destruction this morning.

The school house was used for Sunday schools, church services, political meetings and dances for some time; and, if we mistake not, the first Episcopal Sunday school meeting in the town was held there. For years it had been used for the annual meetings of the county institutes; and, we might add, that many boys, who afterward turned out to be useful citizens, got their jackets tanned within its historic walls.

On May 12, 1879, a meeting was held in district No. 3, which includes the city, to submit a \$4,000 bond proposition. The bonds were voted May 15, 1879. There were 248 votes for the bonds and five against. The contract was let to S. R. Watson, June 17, for the two-story stone addition on the west, for \$3,465. C. N. James, director; L. B. Snow, treasurer, and Vincent Brown, clerk, were the school officers at that time. The main building, with the addition and furniture, cost the district about \$17,000. It contained six rooms, with recitation rooms, and was heated with coal stoves. L. D. Hadley, principal, Gertrude Dick, Mary Schmucker, Mabel Morrison, Lela Allen and Juniata Adams were the teachers in the building.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

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### THE PIONEER CHURCH.

By George F. Fullinwider.

FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN BUTLER COUNTY—A PIONEER MEETING HOUSE—BEECHER'S SERMONS DELIVERED HERE—FIRST SERMON IN WESTERN BUTLER COUNTY—MISSIONARIES—FIRST METHODIST MINISTER—ALL DENOMINATIONS REPRESENTED—SUNDAY SCHOOLS INFLUENCE OF CHURCHES.

The history of the religious services and class organizations of the early days of the settlement of Butler county is meager, indeed. No really authentic record has been preserved, and the best that can be done is to rely upon the memory of those yet living who were a part of the little band that had the courage to camp in the wilderness and make home and fortune of the then unbroken prairie, with the coyote, the Indian and the buffalo as neighbors—and very few of them are now living.

Diligent research has established the fact that, so far as is known, the first religious service ever held in Butler county was in the spring of 1858, when Rev. Mr. Morse, a Congregationalist minister, came to the settlement at Chelsea and, after visiting the homes, announced a meeting to be held in Lewellyn's grove, and there, beneath the scant shade of the small trees, with the canopy of the heavens for covering, the entire settlement gathered to hear the message from the Word of God. Rev. Mr. Morse continued his occasional visits for a period of about two years. Rough and uncouth, as many of his hearers were, he was accorded the heartiest reception and cordial welcome.

During that same year, 1858, there came also a colony of Swedes, who located on the upper Walnut river and on DeRacken creek. One of their number, Rev. Mr. Winberg, settled on Cole creek, on what is now the Fullinwider farm. He was a devout man and interested in the spiritual welfare of those about him. He interested his brother Swedes and others in the settlement and held weekly services in the homes of the settlers for miles around. He was a Lutheran preacher. A little later, Miss Maggie Vaught, now Mrs. H. O. Chittenden, and a Miss Mimie Post, begged rough lumber from a saw mill located in that vicinity, and with their own hands seated a deserted log cabin on the farm now owned by Phineas Osborn and occupied by his son, J. Hugh Osborn. This old

log cabin served their purpose for a meeting house and centrally located as it was, it was easily accessible to all within the limits of the settlement. Not satisfied with fitting the meeting house, Miss Vaught next organized a Sunday school, and, so far as known, this was the first Sunday school in the county. Rev. Mr. Winberg was its superintendent.

In the fall of 1860, James S. Saxby, a Baptist minister, came from Clear Lake, Iowa, and located just east of what is now the Holderman farm, near Chelsea. He, too, held services in the old log cabin. His methods were unique. He was a regular subscriber of a New York weekly paper, and it contained Beecher's sermons, and these he would commit at the noon hours and during the evenings. He would then rehearse them as he followed his plow and on Sunday deliver them to attentive congregations. They were always appreciated, and many looked forward to the coming of the next Sunday, when they would be able to hear and enjoy another of Beecher's sermons. Not every family was able to have a paper arrive in the weekly mail, and the whole community was thus kept posted on the sermons of that eminent divine. Rev. Mr. Saxby, in later years, moved to Douglass, where he preached two or three years.

The first sermon preached in western Butler was near Towanda, in 1862, at the home of D. H. Cupp, who still occupies his old homestead, by Rev. Wilson Harer, who then lived about six miles north of Towanda.

In 1860, J. D. Chamberlain, a missionary among the Choctaw Indians, came and took charge of the Sunday school work of Butler county. He remained about a year and returned to his old home in Massachusetts. No record was ever kept of the results of his labors.

The first Methodist minister of which there is any recollection was a circuit rider, Rev. Mr. Stansbury, whose home was at Belmont, a little town near Piqua, which has long since passed out of existence. Then came Rev. William Stryker, in 1870. Following him came Rev. Mr. Rice, a Methodist presiding elder, who lived at Burlington, Coffey county. He came quite often and preached at Chelsea. A little later, Rev. William Hartman, of Florence, came and organized a class at Chelsea and for a time they held regular services. Rev. Mr. Hartman also embraced El Dorado in his itinerary and, I believe, organized the first Methodist class in El Dorado.

About the same time, Rev. James Gordon, a brother of the late Dr. J. P. Gordon, came to El Dorado and preached for the Presbyterians.

The first Presbyterian class organized was at Chelsea, by Rev. John M. Rayburn, the father of Mrs. George W. Stinson, of El Dorado, in the new school house, which had then just been completed. Rolla Lakin and J. B. Shough were among the elders and served four years.

In 1869, the Friends church was organized in Southwest Butler, in Pleasant township, soon after Michael Cox located at Rose Hill. The first meetings were held in the homes of the people. The permanent organization was effected in Rose Hill in 1878 and named the Friends

church. The first building was erected in 1881. It was but 24x36 feet. The membership numbered about 100. Later a more commodious edifice was built and the membership increased to about 225. Jonathan P. Ballard was the first resident minister. He came here on October 24, 1876, from Hamilton county, Indiana, and drove through with his team. Mr. Ballard died at the home of a daughter in Wichita, in October, 1915. It is worthy of note that the Friends church of Rose Hill is the mother church of all churches of that denomination in adjoining counties, including Wichita.

In April, 1871, the board of county commissioners ordered "that religious meetings may be held in the county court house. No special privileges were given to any one church society, and meetings of a public nature may be held there. Free use was given to citizens of all parts of the county."

About this time the Presbyterian class in Chelsea, having become disorganized, Rev. Crothers, a Presbyterian minister, who had been preaching in El Dorado and other points, went to Chelsea and perfected a reorganization, which remained for years. (This was Samuel Mechord Crothers, now a writer of note.—Ed.)

Other pioneers of several denominations came and went, but no record exists of their efforts. Their names are not now remembered and they cannot be located. Much good was accomplished by them and they did their share toward taming the wilderness and, in many instances, the wilder residents thereof. The seed sown by them fell upon good ground and has multiplied many fold. Only eternity, with its faultless leader, can reveal what they accomplished. The influence of their labors and teachings has spread and augmented until scarcely a home in Butler which has not its family altar, and the family circle is made up of God-fearing and God-loving individuals. The spires of nearly a hundred churches in town and country throughout the county point heavenward. A hundred Sunday schools convene regularly, where the young are taught and the elder ones gain knowledge concerning their Creator and eternal life. Nearly all orthodox denominations are represented, including the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Christian, M. E. Church South, Evangelical, Lutheran, Mennonite, Congregational, Catholic and Adventist. The influence of these churches, their ministers and membership constitutes a force for good, the uplifting of humanity and the promotion of all the graces and virtues that is incalculable. It is the foundation of the homes, of society, and is the rock upon which the whole superstructure rests and upon which it will immovably repose until time shall be no more.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### FRATERNAL ORDERS AND LODGES.

MASONIC LODGES—INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS—MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC—WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS—ANTI HORSE THIEF ASSOCIATION.

#### MASONIC LODGES.

By H. M. Sinclair.

The first body of Free Masons organized in Butler county was that of Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 74, of Augusta. This lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Kansas on October 22, 1866, with the following brethren named as its first officers; C. N. James, W. M.; J. W. Douglass, S. W.; Thomas Stewart, J. W. The destruction of its records many years ago render it impossible to give the names of the charter members.

Mystic Tie Lodge is composed of the best citizenship of Augusta and the surrounding country, and is famed both individually and collectively for its broad-minded charity and helpfulness in time of need. The lodge is in a prosperous condition and the membership is now 160.

The second lodge to receive a charter was Patmos Lodge, No. 97, El Dorado, whose authority dates May 19, 1870, with the following brethren as its first officers: T. G. Boswell, W. M.; James P. Gordon, S. W.; J. C. Lambdin, J. W.; H. H. Gardner, treasurer; D. M. Bronson, secretary; C. M. Foulk, S. D.; S. M. Feely, J. D.; E. S. Gordon, Tyler, and the following charter members: C. Ferguson, J. L. Cupples, J. A. McKenzie, V. Sain and L. B. Snow. Of the original members of Patmos lodge, Brother John L. Cupples is the only surviving member. The early records of the lodge were destroyed by a tornado in June, 1871, and the early work is very undefined, only as it comes down to us by oral tradition. The lodge owns its own building which is a fine two-story brick structure at the corner of Central avenue and Settler street. The rooms are nicely fitted up and the lodge is in a very prosperous condition. The present membership is 239.

Douglass Lodge, No. 151, was granted a charter on October 22, 1874. The officers elected were: Gideon D. Prindle, W. M.; Solomon Wise, S. W.; James J. Harney, J. W.; John S. Johnson, treasurer; Watson M. Lamb, secretary; James P. Shanks, S. D.; Edwin Stevens, J. D.; Joel H. Price, Tyler, together with the following charter members: Joshua Olmstead, John Stalter, Charles H. Lamb, James Kent,



James F. Gibson, Adelbert D. Lee, Jeremiah Brittingham, E. E. Harney, Isaac Renfrow and LaFayette B. Wansley.

In the ranks of Douglass lodge are found men high up in religious and political circles, always battling for the maintenance of truth and the upbuilding of all that is good in the community. The present membership is 140.

Joppa Lodge, No. 223, located at Leon, was granted a charter on February 22, 1883, with the following as its first officers: George A. Kenoyer, W. M.; John J. Brown, S. W.; Charles Tabing, J. W., together with the following charter members: Jerry Campbell, Ambrose Batt, John L. Moore, Daniel W. Poe, Thomas J. Lindsay, E. K. Summerwell and Joseph Pattie.

Joppa Lodge has always responded nobly in acts of kindness and charity to those in adversity and distress and many a one has reason to bless the philanthropy of the members of this lodge. The present membership is eighty.

Towanda Lodge, No. 30, although having a number which would indicate an earlier organization, did not get its charter until September, 1885. Its first officers were: E. T. Beeson, W. M.; John Eddington, S. W.; Andrew Swiggett, J. W.; A. J. Ralston, treasurer; W. H. Young, secretary; L. M. Pace, S. D.; Fred Lyons, J. D.; George Swiggett, Tyler, with these brethren as charter members: J. S. Braley, J. T. Nye, B. W. Eakin, J. M. Read, R. S. Miller, Ely Lytle, Charles Mornheimweg, Julius Straw and William Snyder.

Towanda lodge owns its own building, which is a solid structure of stone, located in the center of the business portion of the city, and enjoys the reputation of being one of the best "working" lodges in this jurisdiction. Its membership comprises the best in the community. The latch string always "hangs out" to those who are worthy. The present membership is eighty-five.

In the early part of 1886, a few Masons living at Brainard and vicinity, being homesick for a place to meet and do Masonic work, concluded to petition the Grand Lodge for a dispensation to open and form a lodge according to ancient usages. On June 25, 1886, authority was given them to work under dispensation, which they did until February 17, 1887, when the Grand Lodge granted them a charter to be known as Brainard Lodge, No. 280, with the following officers: E. T. Eaton, W. M.; G. W. Neal, S. W.; J. C. Jewett, J. W.; W. H. Stewart, treasurer; M. C. Snorf, secretary; A. M. Brumback, J. D.; J. M. Foy, S. D.; B. V. Squire, S. S.; L. J. Turner, J. S.; H. Dohren, Tyler, and these charter members: Isaac N. Carson, Daniel M. Green, William C. McCraner, John Stuart, Benjamin D. Squires, Thomas T. Stansbury and James V. Seaman.

The lodge had a steady and healthy growth until 1892, when the Rock Island railroad, having built its road through Whitewater (practically leaving Brainard "out in the cold") decided to move to the latter

place. Brainard lodge, like many others in a new country, had its "ups and downs," but still with its eye on that "hieroglyphic bright, which none but craftsmen ever saw," pursued the even tenor of their way until at the present time they can boast of one of the best working lodges in the States, composed of the very best men in the community and enjoying the confidence and respect they richly deserve. The total membership is now fifty-eight.

On February 23, 1913, a charter was granted to Howard C. Tillotson, W. M.; William Yenter, S. W.; William H. Brown, J. W., together with the following charter members to do all regular Masonic work at Latham, to be known as Latham Lodge, No. 401: John R. Jarnell, John T. Comstock, Thomas T. Trigg, William McKinney, A. E. Jones, W. L. Murphy, W. H. Ellis and Sam S. Wright.

Although a new lodge, it is forging to the front both in membership and in the accuracy of its work. The future certainly looks bright for Latham lodge. Its membership is thirty-six.

The Order of the Eastern Star, an auxiliary, or appendix, of Freemasonry, is in a very flourishing condition in this county. Stars, or chapters, being located at practically all places where Masons meet and when the hand of a brother Mason is in need of the refinement, grace and the soothing presence of woman, some good sister of the order is certain to be found.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

By George F. Fullinwider.

El Dorado Lodge, No. 74, is the oldest and strongest. It was instituted May 31, 1871, by H. L. Stoddard and the only charter member now living, I believe, is H. M. Logan, who also bears the distinction of being the oldest in point of membership in continual good standing who was initiated in the county, now living within its boundaries. Present membership, 177.

Following closely after this organization was that of Western Star Lodge, No. 81, at Augusta, October 19, 1871, by W. A. Shannon, P. G. M. This lodge has passed through many vicissitudes, but has always held its charter, and at present is in a thrifty growing condition. Its membership numbers one hundred.

Leon Odd Fellowship has experienced a rough voyage in the past. On May 24, 1882, A. H. Dow instituted Leon Lodge, No. 203. After struggling for several years, the members surrendered their charter, March 20, 1896. The present lodge was instituted October 7, 1905, by H. K. Herbert and given the same name and number as the old lodge. Number of members, thirty-nine.

Walnut Valley Lodge, No. 156, was instituted in Douglass, May 20, 1879, by W. A. Shannon, P. G. M. It, too, has had its ebb and flow, but is now in good working condition. Membership, thirty-four.

Benton Lodge, No. 255, was instituted April 23, 1885, by William Mathewson. This lodge has passed through tribulation. At one time it lost its hall, together with its regalia and paraphernalia, by fire. It struggled to its feet, bought a new site and erected a fine brick building, the upper floor of which is occupied for its lodge room. It is now in a flourishing condition with fifty-one members and good prospects.

Milton Lodge, No. 268, was first instituted at Brainard, October 14, 1885. It is now located at Whitewater. When it was moved or by what authority, the records fail to show. Suffice it to say, the lodge is comfortably located in its own hall, a new brick building, has a membership of forty-seven and is in a flourishing condition. William Mathewson was the instituting officer.

Beaumont Lodge, No. 275, located at Beaumont, was instituted January 11, 1886, by J. S. Coddington, G. M. It has a membership of fifty-five. It is one of the real live lodges of the county and is doing good work.

Potwin Lodge, No. 525, at Potwin, was instituted May 20, 1901, by B. F. Allebach. This lodge has recently erected a new brick block, the upper floor of which is used for lodge purposes. Membership, fifty-four.

Rose Hill Lodge, No. 557, was instituted September 25, 1903, by T. D. Wardell. Its membership now numbers twenty-nine.

Rosalia Lodge, No. 565, of Rosalia, was instituted by H. K. Herbert, December 15, 1905. The membership of this lodge is a lively bunch. They have a fine degree team in splendid fettle and put on the work by the ritual. E. S. Gray is captain of the team. The lodge has a membership of sixty-three, with good prospects to increase it to one hundred.

Cassoday Lodge, No. 592, located in Cassoday, in northeast Butler, was instituted October 8, 1906, by H. B. Rogers. It has a membership of forty-eight and they are the substantial sort that make up an organization of true Odd Fellows.

Andover Lodge, No. 624, located at Andover, is one of the youngest lodges in the county. It was instituted December 17, 1909, by James Wilson. Its membership numbers thirty-seven.

Latham Lodge, No. 637, located in Latham, was instituted May 10, 1910, by W. K. Adams. This is the last and youngest of the lodges of Odd Fellows in Butler county, but its membership is made up of the best men in the community and its influence is manifest. There are thirty-three members.

Along with the subordinate lodges and working with them in the great object for which they stand, are the Daughters of Rebekah. A detailed history of the sister organization in Butler county is at this time not available. It is, however, safe to say that in nearly every instance where a subordinate lodge is organized a Rebekah lodge is almost certain to follow. And this is true in Butler county as well as elsewhere. It is also safe to say that the oldest lodge of Sister Re-

bekahs in Butler county is Friendship Lodge, No. 10, of El Dorado. The strongest, perhaps, in the county, is Potwin Lodge, and it is, perhaps, the most active.

### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

By U. M. Green.

The first camp of Modern Woodmen of America in Butler county was organized November 10, 1902. Chelsea Camp, No. 8877, with the following officers: Creed Hamilton, Counsel; U. M. Green, Adviser, C. E. Winkler, clerk. The charter of this camp was afterwards surrendered, most of the members uniting with the El Dorado camp.

Camp No. 627, Douglass; chartered June 18, 1888; first consul, J. R. McNabb; first clerk, W. A. Phipps; present membership, 133. Camp No. 647, El Dorado; chartered July 10, 1888; first consul, J. F. Wright; first clerk, C. M. Cruncleton; present membership, 265. Camp No. 902, Augusta; chartered April 9, 1889; first consul, J. F. Richardson; first clerk, Lem Locker; present membership, ninety-one. Camp No. 1838, Potwin; chartered November 25, 1892; first consul, Joseph King; first clerk, G. W. Ball; present membership, fifty. Camp No. 3108, Towanda, chartered July 25, 1895; first consul, W. G. Turner; first clerk, M. Orban, Jr.; present membership, thirty-six. Camp No. 3860, White-water; chartered May 9, 1896; first consul, J. W. Stiger; first clerk, J. M. Pace; present membership, forty-nine. Camp No. 408, Benton; chartered July 27, 1896; first consul, J. B. Patton; first clerk, J. C. Osborn; present membership, twenty-eight. Camp No. 5469, Leon; chartered March 26, 1898; first consul, E. L. Bornhouse, first clerk, Charles H. Watson; present membership, forty-five. Camp No. 4381, Latham; chartered June 23, 1898; first consul, W. D. Jessup; first clerk, Roy Shafer; present membership, sixty-nine. Camp No. 6694, Andover; chartered June 15, 1899; first consul, Henry Hart; first clerk, S. B. McClaren; present membership, forty-seven. Camp No. 3999, Rose Hill; chartered September 7, 1899; first consul, J. B. Hall; first clerk, W. J. Harrold; present membership, thirty. Camp No. 7154, Rosalia; chartered October 28, 1899; first consul, Val Piper; first clerk, C. E. Prescott; present membership, thirty-four. Camp No. 7261, Bodarc; chartered November 25, 1899; first consul, I. Stewart; first clerk, L. T. Elder; present membership, thirty-four. Camp No. 11063, Cassoday; chartered January 6, 1908; first consul, J. W. Young; first clerk, W. G. Robinson; present membership, eleven. Camp No. 11403, Elbing; chartered September 7, 1911; first consul, W. H. Hallett; first clerk, H. H. Cassell; present membership, seven. Other camps have been organized in the county and afterward disbanded and the members uniting with the nearest camp.

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

By W. E. Bates.

At the close of the Civil War, Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man, and grow up with the country," was followed by a large number of courageous, energetic and intelligent young men who had served their country valiantly in preserving the union of States unbroken. Men of brain and brawn found their way to Kansas, 128,000 of them. The rich bottom land and the fertile grass producing upland of Butler county attracted many to locate within its borders. They came here to make a home and a future for themselves and their posterity. The demands and hardships of pioneer life were cheerfully and heroically borne. A feeling of comradeship and ties of common service drew them closely together. The need of organization soon became apparent if the interest in each other was to be kept alive and be of helpfulness in their common experiences. Very soon after the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1866, organizations of veterans of the war sprang up quite generally throughout Kansas. The veterans of Butler county, inspired by a spirit of brotherhood, quickly fell into line and posts were organized at El Dorado, Douglass, Augusta, Leon, Latham, Potwin, Towanda, Andover, Benton, Whitewater and Beaumont.

Interest in comrades of the war spread beyond the limits of the local post to comrades of other posts. A county organization was formed and meetings of the boys who wore the blue were held annually. These reunions were seasons of renewing the youth of old boys. By recital of daring adventures and comparison of army experiences, the veterans were boys again, fired with enthusiasm and ready to shoulder the musket and go forth to repeat the service of other days if need should require.

Of late the county reunions have been discontinued. The boys of sixty-one-sixty-five have become old men. Their number has become small. The long and often forced marches of active service on the field, the manning of rifle pits, the strain of musket fire and bayonet charge, the exposure of picket service and sleeping on wet and frozen ground are manifesting themselves in enfeebled constitution and lessened physical vigor. Probably the last county reunion of the veterans of the Civil War has been held.

The number of comrades has become greatly reduced. Some of the posts of the county have ceased to exist and of those still remaining most of them have only occasional meetings. Three posts meet only on call; one has meetings only quarterly; two monthly; one semi-monthly.

As the comrades grow older and feebler and their number fewer, the tie of sympathetic fellowship between them grows stronger and more tender. Only a comrade can enter into completest openness with another comrade.

The veterans of the Civil war and their descendants have had a conspicuous part in developing Butler county and placing it in the front rank as a grain and stock raising county. And in education and social well being, in morals and religion, in all that makes for the welfare and happiness and true good of men and women, individually and collectively they have been prime movers and active and earnest supporters. The people of Butler county of this and coming generations do well to recognize their generous and disinterested service and give honor to whom honor is due.

But a few short years will elapse until the deeds of the veterans of the Civil war will be only a matter of history and the place they fill a fading memory. All will have answered the last roll call and will have been mustered out of earthly service.

"An aged soldier with his snow white hair,  
Sat looking at the night;  
A busy shining angel came with things,  
Like chevrons on his wings;  
He said, 'The evening detail has been made,  
Report to your brigade.'  
The soldier heard the message that was sent,  
Then rose and died and went."  
—Ironquill.

#### WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

By Mrs. Hattie E. Riley.

The work of American women in the great war for the preservation of the Union was that of relief. Relief on the battlefield and in the hospital for the wounded and sick; relief in homes provided for them, of the wives and children of the soldiers at the front, as well as for the widows and orphans of those who went forth never to return.

Ten years after the close of the war much distress was felt among the people of the country; a financial crisis was on; sickness, old wounds, lack of work and bitter disappointment began to make fearful ravages in the veteran ranks.

The Grand Army of the Republic had been doing its utmost to aid and comfort their unfortunate comrades, to assist the comrades.

Then it was that the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and other loyal women answered again to the call of the men who saved the nation. Thus it came about that in the fall of 1883, Mrs. L. L. Wood, eager to assist the Grand Army of the Republic and to render aid and sympathy to the survivors of the Union, organized, in Wingest Hall, in El Dorado, the order known as W. H. L. Wallace W. R. C., No. 7, auxiliary to W. H. L. Wallace Post of the G. A. R. The meeting was

composed of twenty-seven members, all staunch, true, loyal women of the city. After the organization was established a charter was granted on November 20, 1883, issued from Boston, Massachusetts, and signed by National President Florence Barker. The charter members of No. 7 were as follows: Carrie M. McGinnis, E. S. Phillips, Hattie E. Riley, S. Beardsley, Mary Ellen Beardsley, Matilda Smith, Mary S. Ball, Laura Wood, Nora Steele, Cynthia Daily Oldfield, Laura E. Jay, Bertha Nye, Lizzie Bearse, Margaret Copeland, Sarah E. Boyden, Lon Gordon, Cordelia Story, Mary M. Smith, Laura Tuttles, Dora Jackson McAnally, Mrs. Milan, Lydia Stiver, Eliza Gibson, Clara Story, Mary Tankersley, Mrs. Olive Colyer and Jennie Flenner. Of these charter members only four are living, Mrs. Hattie E. Riley, who has served as president ten years; Mrs. Cynthia Daily Oldfield, who is a faithful attendant, and who is proud of the fact that she is a charter member of No. 7; Lydia Stiver and Mrs. Jennie Flenner, who are not now members of the organization.

During the thirty-three years of its existence, over three hundred members have been initiated into its ranks. They have been of inestimable value to the W. H. L., Wallace Post, and these old Boys in Blue are always glad to testify to the merits of No. 7.

Not only have they aided and assisted the G. A. R. and perpetuated the memory of their heroic dead, but they have assisted all Union veterans who have needed help and protection, and have extended aid to their widows and orphans by finding them homes and employment and assuring them of sympathy and friends.

For a number of years their meeting place was Wingert Hall, but later the old Methodist church was purchased by W. H. L. Wallace Post, and ever since the W. R. C. meets twice a month in this beautiful G. A. R. hall on Settler street. One would think, as the ranks are growing thinner, that their interest would lag, but not so with W. R. C. No. 7. Their love for the remaining few seems to grow stronger and their ambition to cheer and comfort is something admirably beautiful. In conclusion, let us say that the life history of W. R. C. No. 7 has been that of loving service, and we are reminded of Thomas Buchanan Reed's beautiful poem:

"The maid who binds her warrior's sash  
And smiling, all her pain dissembles  
The while beneath her drooping lash  
One starry tear-drop hangs and trembles,  
Though heaven alone records the tear,  
And fame shall never know its story.  
Her heart has shed a drop as dear  
As e'er bedewed the fields of glory.

The wife who girds her husband's sword  
'Mid little ones who weep and wonder,

And bravely speaks the cheering word,  
 Although her heart be rent asunder,  
 Doomed nightly in her dreams to hear  
 The bolts around him rattle,  
 Has shed as sacred blood as e'er  
 Was poured upon the field of battle.

The mother who conceals her grief  
 As to her breast her son she presses,  
 The mother who conceals her grief,  
 Kissing the patriot brow she blesses,  
 With no one but her secret God  
 To know the pain that weighs upon her,  
 Has shed as sacred blood as e'er  
 Was poured upon the field of honor."

The ladies who have served as president are: Mrs. Conley, Catharine Wells, deceased; Clara Doughty, deceased; Hannah Pattee, deceased; Maggie Ripley, Hattie E. Riley, Mollie Avery, Alcuida Fisher, Marietta McCormack; Laura Woods, deceased; Annie Wardell, Cynthia Daily Oldfield; Mary Douglass, deceased; Dr. Emiline Tanner, deceased; Eliza Gibson, deceased; Elizabeth Collet, Lillian James, Libbie Ford, Addie Gardner, Sarah Boyden.

#### THE ANTI HORSE THIEF ASSOCIATION.

By H. M. Logan.

The Anti Horse Thief Association was founded by Major David McKee in 1876. The first State assembly of the order was held in Humboldt in 1882.

The order is all that its name implies and much more. It is an association of law abiding, peaceable and liberty loving citizens banded together for mutual protection and fraternal assistance to make the commission of crime more difficult and the capture of the criminal more certain. It is not a vigilance committee. It bears no resemblance to the Vigilants, Regulators or Whitecaps. It is opposed to mob violence in any form. A member who takes part in the actions of a mob will be expelled, and a lodge taking part therein will have its charter taken away. It turns the captured criminal over to the legal authorities and assists in the prosecution with evidence. Thus the innocent are protected and the guilty brought to justice.

The Anti Horse Thief Association holds to the great principle that all men are endowed with inalienable rights of life, liberty and the peaceful possession of property. It has come nearer solving the problem of dealing with those who molest these rights, than all other methods com-



bined. In 1911 bank robberies became so frequent, that the State bank commissioner said, "I am simply appalled at the number of bank robberies in Kansas." As a remedy, Mr. Dolley and other leading bank officials recommend that bankers join the Anti Horse Thief Association. Many of them did so, and it is a well known fact that bank robberies stopped and but very few have occurred in the state since.

Since the organization of the order in Kansas, other states have fallen into line and now very many of the best people in the nation belong. But, of course, Kansas leads them all with a membership of 22,000 in good standing.

While attending the National convention at Fayetteville, Ark. recently, I was reliably informed that over ninety per cent. of all property stolen from Anti Horse Thief Association members last year was recovered.

As the years come and go, crime grows less. Butler county has several good live orders of the Anti Horse Thief Association, and all are putting forth an effort to make this a better world in which to live.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### WOMEN'S CLUBS.

By Mrs. Frank H. Cron.

FEDERATED CLUBS—BEETHOVEN CLUB, EL DORADO—SHAKESPEARE CLUB—WOMAN'S MUTUAL BENEFIT CLUB—THE AVON CLUB, EL DORADO—DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION—OUTLOOK CLUB, AUGUSTA—TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB, DOUGLASS—MUTUAL HELPERS, CASSODAY—E. M. B. CLUB, TOWANDA—EVERY WEDNESDAY HOME STUDY CLUB.

Verily of the making of clubs, there is no end, at least not yet. Many clubs for various purposes have flourished in Butler county. Clubs fill a large place in the life of the women of the world today. Music clubs, literature clubs, aid clubs, civic clubs, mothers' clubs, thimble clubs, embroidery clubs, luncheon clubs and card clubs.

The National Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest organization of women in the world, has done much for the enactment of better laws. Much to mold public sentiment and much for the general uplift of humanity. There are five clubs in Butler county which are federated: The Woman's Mutual Benefit Club, Home Economics, and Domestic Science of 1914 of El Dorado, the Outlook, Augusta, and Mutual Helpers of Cassoday. Four district federation presidents have been chosen from Butler county, three from the Woman's Mutual Benefit of El Dorado, Miss Sadie Stone, Mrs. R. S. Miller and Mrs. F. H. Cron and one from the Outlook Club, Augusta, Mrs. W. A. Penley.

#### BEETHOVEN CLUB, EL DORADO.

No story of the clubs of the county could be complete without mentioning the Beethoven Club, organized in 1870. However, this was no woman's club. Prof. Hulse was leader and S. E. Black, probate judge at the time, and C. M. James was clerk, and were promoters of this club. Queen Esther was presented at the old M. E. Church in 1881. Previously, the old court house was used for their entertainments. At one of these, the club was fortunate to secure Miss Fannie DeGrass of Milwaukee, who was visiting relatives in Winfield. The audience was delighted with her singing, and Judge Black was so impressed with the personality of the young prima donna that he speedily offered her his

heart and hand, so they were married and lived happily ever after, even unto this day, in the good little town of El Dorado. So much for the Beethoven Club.

A number of years later, Mrs. Black formed the Rubenstein Club, and established a conservatory of music, which, for many years, was the center of the musical life of the town.

#### SHAKESPEARE CLUB.

The oldest women's club in El Dorado is the Shakespeare Club. This club is the outgrowth of a reading circle organized at the home of Mrs. C. A. Leland in 1892. Among the original promoters were: Mesdames C. A. Leland, Lorenzo Leland, Edward C. Ellet, Henrietta Van Dorn, Lillie Parkhurse, Mrs. Charles Ewing and others. In 1898 the club took up the reading of Shakespeare. Mrs. Van Dorn was made first president, which position she held during her life. The present efficient president is Mrs. R. H. Hazlett. The members are: Mrs. R. H. Hazlett, Mrs. C. L. Harris, Mrs. C. A. Leland, Mrs. M. M. Vandenberg, Mrs. Alvah Shelden, Mrs. Charles Selig, Mrs. R. E. Frazier, Mrs. S. R. Clifford, Mrs. C. E. Thompson, Mrs. J. B. Adams. In recent years the club has been saddened by the death of two of its capable members, Mrs. N. F. Frazier and Mrs. V. P. Mooney. The social features of this club are particularly enjoyable.

#### WOMAN'S MUTUAL BENEFIT CLUB.

This club was organized in 1898 and federated in 1899. The club owes its origin to Mrs. Alvah Shelden and Mrs. M. W. Sinclair. The membership is limited to twenty-five. Its course of study is varied. While interested in music, literature and art, this club has always been active in work of a civic nature. For many years, the Woman's Mutual Benefit Club assisted in maintaining a public library, the nucleus of the present Carnegie library. The summer chautauqua was established by this club. Prizes have been given for best flowers grown by children; a "dandelion day" created much sentiment for beautiful lawns, and a clean up day was appointed by the mayor at the suggestion of this club. The state scholarship fund has received generous support. The following ladies have served as president: Mesdames Alvah Shelden, W. M. Sinclair, M. A. Koogler, C. A. Leland, G. M. Sandifer, Miss Sadie Stone, Mrs. F. J. B. King, Mrs. M. S. Munson, Mrs. R. S. Miller, Mrs. J. H. Austin, Mrs. W. H. Ellet, Mrs. C. E. Hunt, Mrs. S. P. Willis, Mrs. F. H. Cron, Mrs. M. E. Kilgore, Mrs. Ida Robinson, Mrs. J. A. Wiedeman and Mrs. C. E. Boudreau. Many high class entertainments have been given by this club and many distinguished women have been its guests. They have twice entertained the district convention.

## THE AVON CLUB, EL DORADO.

This club was organized November 16, 1906. Its object is both literary and social. The membership is limited to sixteen. Each year many delightful programs and original parties have been given by the clever young women who compose the club. The following were charter members: Miss Flora Leland, Miss Cecil Leland, Miss Alice Murdock, Miss Ellina Murdock, Miss Corah Mooney, Miss Edith Chesney, Miss Laura Wiley, Miss Cornelia Ewing, Miss Olive Clifford, Miss Susan Pattison, Miss Grace Black, Miss Hazel Betts and Mrs. Clara Bright.

Each year the members of this club are given money by certain wealthy individuals. They use this money to bring Christmas cheer to every child in the town. They have an entertainment for the children, both rich and poor, and each child receives some present.

## DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The El Dorado chapter, Daughters of American Revolution, was organized July 8, 1910, by Mrs. C. E. Stanley, State regent, and named Susannah French Putney, revolutionary ancestor of Mrs. J. W. Kirkpatrick, first regent of the chapter.

The course of study has been American history, current events and the Daughters of American Revolution magazine. The work of the chapter has been in harmony with the general society. The members are: Mrs. J. W. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Robert H. Hazlett, Mrs. I. V. Horner, Mrs. J. A. Wiedeman, Mrs. B. F. Meeks, Mrs. Dillon Hamilton, Mrs. J. C. Robinson, Mrs. R. E. Frazier, Mrs. N. F. Frazier, Mrs. C. E. Hunt, Mrs. F. H. Cron, Miss Ruth Avery and Miss Edith Chesney.

## OUTLOOK CLUB, AUGUSTA.

This very delightful club was organized in 1907 with nine charter members: Mrs. R. W. Stephenson, Mrs. A. N. Taylor, Miss Winnifred Miller, Mrs. H. A. Hill, Mrs. Park Salter, Mrs. A. Holiday, Mrs. S. A. Simpson, Miss Leonard and Mrs. W. E. Brown. This club established a library with about 250 books. The library was opened June 1, 1912, with Miss Pansy Wiley, librarian. The library now contains 750 books. This club has entertained the district federation and supports most liberally the scholarship fund. The literary work of this club is especially high and the social features enjoyable.

## TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB, DOUGLASS.

Upon January 11, 1907, this club was organized with the following officers: President, Mrs. R. H. Snell; vice president, Mrs. J. A. Middlekauff; secretary, Miss Effie Johnston. There are now twenty-one active

members and seven associate members. In addition to the regular work of the club, a public library is maintained through the efforts of the Twentieth Century.

#### MUTUAL HELPERS, CASSODAY.

This club was organized in August, 1914, under the name of "Needle and Eye Club." Mrs. Fred Ray was its first president, Mrs. Albert Sunbarger, vice president and Miss Kitty Green, secretary. The club had a membership of thirty-six. Besides the literary work of the club, the members contribute to the scholarship fund. A spirit of true neighborliness has been growing, which is enjoyable to all.

#### E. M. B. CLUB, TOWANDA.

This club was originally an embroidery club to which the following ladies belonged. Mrs. Lockwood, Mrs. J. C. Robinson, Mrs. Dona Robinson, Miss O. Porter. So enjoyable did these ladies find their little club that they resolved to share it with others. In January, 1909, the larger club was organized at the home of Mrs. L. W. Robinson. In January, 1912, the club adopted a constitution and by-laws and was for the first time called E. M. B.—Every member busy. The object is for mutual improvement in literature and general culture. The social side of this club has been found most pleasant.

In October, 1912, the club voted a library which was opened upon January 8, 1913. At this time the club contained eighty-five volumes, which number has been increased to 325.

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY HOME STUDY CLUB, EL DORADO.

This club was organized December 8, 1897. The study was a course published in the Chicago Record. This club did very good work for about two years and was then discontinued. Among those who were members were: Mrs. R. H. Hazlett, Mrs. C. A. Leland, Mrs. H. A. Miller, Mrs. Frances C. Armstrong, Mrs. E. C. Ellet, Mrs. Alvah Sheldon, Mrs. V. P. Mooney, Mrs. M. M. Vandenberg, Mrs. C. L. Harris, Mrs. S. E. Black, Mrs. Charles Ewing, Mrs. S. R. Clifford, Miss Sadie Schmuicker, Mrs. H. H. Gardiner, Mrs. N. F. Frazier and Mrs. W. W. Pattison.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

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### REMINISCENCES.

FIRST COMMERCIAL SIGN—THE NEXT BEER STORY—A BOOZE STORY—ANOTHER ONE—JUST A STORY—CELEBRATION—SOME THINGS—A MURDER—WHEN TIMES WERE YOUNG, BY FRANCES E. MOONEY—IN SOCIETY—THE OLD HOTEL—ANOTHER TIME.

In telling a story the personality of the narrator enters into it to a greater or less extent. Each person has his own peculiarity in relating an incident, giving it an inflection here, emphasis there, and a grin, ha ha, or imitation where needed, in order to give it the flavor or pep necessary to have it properly appreciated. In attempting to put the same story or incident in print, is to loose or omit all those things and thereby the subject becomes more or less "English."

#### THE FIRST COMMERCIAL SIGN.

In the spring of 1870, the firm of Smith & Bishop was engaged in selling goods, both dry and wet, in the town of Chelsea. As we drove into the little village and past their place of business, the following sign, painted on the lid of a cracker box and nailed to one corner of the shack, attracted my attention: "BERE FO SAIL HER." If their "bere" was no better than their spelling, they would have to go to a prohibition county in order to find a "sail" for it.

#### THE NEXT BEER STORY.

In an early day, one J. W. Tucker, who was then dispensing the ardent in a limited way at Towanda, sent to Wichita by three fellows, who were going there on other business, for a keg of beer. (How many people in Butler county under 35 years of age, have ever seen a keg of beer?) On their return with the beer in the wagon along with some tinware they were taking to Towanda, they met three other fellows on their way to Wichita; after talking a while they all concluded to sample Tucker's beer. After considerable trouble the bung of the keg was out, and some of the tinware filled with the fluid and foam. The party removing the bung and replacing it was so saturated with the contents of the keg, it being a hot day and the beer escaping as fast and furious

as possible, that the order of the brewery was with him as long as that suit of clothes remained. In speaking of his business afterward, Mr. Tucker remarked: "Boys, you can't sell beer in this town for five cents a glass. I kept an account of every glass out of that keg you fellows brought me from Wichita and I didn't make a cent on it. After this, beer is ten cents a glass, or three glasses for a quarter."

#### A BOOZE STORY.

(The origin of two per cent alcohol.)

During the summer of 1870, one Jim Files came into Butler county and "took a claim," the one now owned by J. J. Edmiston, north of Towanda; returned to Illinois, settled up his affairs, reduced his property to cash and returned to his claim in the fall in time to build a shack before winter; coming by railroad to Emporia. At Emporia he fell in with a couple of teamsters from Towanda who were there after merchandise for the Towanda store, with whom he returned to Butler county, and thereby hangs this tale:

On their way to Emporia the teamsters were stopped by a man living near the then town of Chelsea, who handed them a two gallon jug, with the price thereof, and asked them to go to the wholesale liquor house of Helwig & Lane at Emporia and buy and bring him two gallons of "firewater," stating that he wanted to use some of it for rheumatism, and some for snake medicine. The trip was made, the Red Eye purchased and the wagons loaded for the return trip, when they were approached by the aforesaid Jim Files, who requested, and was granted, the privilege of walking behind their wagons, riding part of the time, and accompanying them on their return trip. They left Emporia, drove about three miles and camped for the night on the banks of the Cottonwood river. Supper was prepared, horses fed and picketed. Everything lovely and quiet as a mid-summer night's dream, when, upon the stillness came a cry of agony from Files—that is the word that describes it. "Boys, I have lost my pocket book. It had in it not only every cent but everything I have in the world except my claim" (between \$100 and \$200, which was quite a sum of money for those days.) Of course, the usual questions were asked, where he lost it, when did he see it last, where did he keep it, and so on. He finally concluded that he had used it last at a saloon in Emporia and thought he had left it on the bar, so one of us agreed to walk back to Emporia with him and endeavor to recover it, if possible. The trip was made and needless to say, was unsuccessful. A more dejected, downcast man on the return to camp, I have never witnessed. After arriving in camp and spending some time in bemoaning his fate, he said: "Well, I have my old pipe left, so I guess I will smoke, anyway." He went to a tree where he had hung his coat, just before starting back to Emporia, put his hand in his outside

pocket for his pipe and brought forth—his pocketbook and all its contents. You, gentle reader, may have seen, at some time, a man leaving the lowest depths of despair and climbing to the mountain top of relief and joy; but you have never seen anything that could hold a candle to the change in Jim. From the valley of despair to the height of rejoicing, is a long road but it was taken at a bound, and when the top had been reached, he looked down from his lofty height and said, "Fellows, I want a drink. I want to celebrate." And out came the two gallon jug. The next morning, after crossing the Cottonwood river, the old jug was just as heavy and just as full as when it left Emporia; from there on, after crossing each stream, the result was the same. When it was finally delivered at Chelsea, the original two per cent. had been established.

Moral: If you must smoke, use a pipe.

#### ANOTHER ONE.

The above reminds me. One day in June, 1870, the driver of a team on the road to Emporia from Towanda, for freight, stopped at Sycamore Springs, under the old Sycamore tree, (from whence came its name,) filled his half gallon jug with water and started over the divide to Mercer Springs. In going down the slope towards Mercer Springs, he met a man traveling in the opposite direction, driving a span of small ponies and quite heavily loaded. The roads were heavy, man and team worn to a frazzle, scarcely able to get along. Upon meeting the team from the south, said: "Pardner, haven't you anything to drink? I am plumb played out and I hain't had a drop since I left Emporee." The driver of the team from the south said: "You bet I have, some of the finest you ever tasted. "Well, for land's sake give me some. I was never so dry in my life." As the jug was lifted from under the wagon seat and held before him, a look of anticipation and of satisfaction came over his face, which like has never been seen before or since. He took the little brown jug, stroked it tenderly, smacked his lips and smiled with glee, turned up the jug, took one swallow and with a look of disgust and derision seldom equaled, and never excelled, said "Gawd, it's water."

#### JUST A STORY.

In the early days, an old gentleman came into the Whitewater valley driving a pair of white mules and a span of horses, locating near Towanda. He was very eccentric but seemingly got a good deal out of life, a deservable friend, neighbor and citizen. He was met one day by a German who stopped him and said: "I hear you have a horse what had bots." "Yep," replied the old gentleman. "What did you do for him?" "I give him a pint of turpentine." "All right, much oblige. Yep, Giddap," and each drove on. The next day they met again. Said the old German to the old gentleman, "Vell, I gife my horse pint turpentine for bots and it kill him," said the old German. "Yep, it did mine too, giddap."



## CELEBRATION.

The largest celebration ever held in Butler county up to that time, and I do not think it has been surpassed since, was held in Dan Cupps Grove at Towanda, July 4, 1873. Arrangements had been made for a large crowd and it was there. Practically all of the north half of the county, and many from other places. The procession leaving Towanda for the grove going across the then unbroken valley in a diagonal direction reached from the town to the grove, about one and a quarter miles. T. N. Sedgwick, of Emporia, a lawyer friend of the late Dr. R. S. Miller, was invited to make the address and was on hand for that purpose. A. L. Redden of El Dorado also had been invited to make a talk after the address of Sedgwick. When the time came for speaking, Mr. Redden said he would be unable to remain until after the speaking of Mr. Sedgwick and that if he spoke at all he would have to speak first. This was finally consented to. Mr. Redden spoke. When it came time for Mr. Sedgwick to talk, night was approaching and the people starting home. Mr. Sedgwick made a few remarks and returned to Emporia a sadder but wiser man. In justice to Mr. Redden, it is only fair to say that he simply became enthused with his subject and failed to notice that tempus was "fugitin."

## SOME THINGS.

While it is true, perhaps, that human nature is and always has been the same, yet it is also true that conditions and environment have a great deal to do with life in certain communities. In the early settlement of the county the people came as near having everything in common as the most radical believer in that doctrine could expect or even wish for. This was the case, especially among the farmers. What one neighbor had the other was welcome to use, loan and borrow; always ready to swap work, get together, assist each other in every way possible. All short of money but long in all those things that money will not buy; clothed with garments coarse and cheap; but covering hearts that beat in unison one with another; each doing the best he could for himself, at the same time promoting the welfare of his neighbor; living most of the time upon the barest necessities, but never refusing a meal to one that was hungry. Endeavoring to make a living and accumulate property but not to the extent or exclusion of all else. Sometimes in buying supplies for the table, groceries and provisions, things were purchased that would look out of proportion to some people. I have personally sold, not to one man only, but to different men and at different times, fifty cents' worth of sugar, fifty cents' worth of coffee and a dollar's worth of tobacco. And the caller at the old log house or homestead shanty was as welcome to the one as the other. In those primitive abodes, neighbors envying no one and no one envying them, visited back and forth, and friendships were formed, lasting as time itself. "God help

the man that has no friends. I'd rather be a dog and bay the moon, than such a man; I'd rather wear the wreath that friendship gives than crowns of gold."

And because of the friendships thus formed, the troubles and discouragements, the privations and wants that were bound to come upon all were made lighter; the road smoother. The clouds disappeared, and all things resumed in time their normal condition.

#### A MURDER.

The most malicious, premeditated, willful, cold-blooded burder that ever transpired in the county, I presume, happened in the little village of Towanda in the fall of 1872, during the time the agricultural and horticultural fair was being held near there, and, as often happens, booze was at the bottom or cause of it. Two men, Tom Griffith and John Bradshaw, were enjoying (?) themselves, having a hilarious, rollicking old time by partaking of that which cheers, and in sufficient quantities, also inebriates. They had each overloaded, Bradshaw to a greater extent than Griffith. Bradshaw became morose, sullen and wanted to be let alone. Griffith was joyful, merry, noisy and, in his own estimation, a little the best man physically that ever roped a broncho or branded a maverick. They were in the drug and hardware store of the late Dr. R. S. Miller and his partner, J. H. Dickey, Griffith boasting of his prowess and Bradshaw sulking. Griffith went up to Bradshaw and said, "John, I can put you on your back in less time than a minute." John replied, "Go way and lem me alone." Griffith turned and walked back to the rear of the store, wanting someone to test his strength, and again approached Bradshaw and said, "John, I can throw you over my head with one hand. I am a trantler from Bitter Creek, the further up you go, the worse they get. I am from right at the head waters. I am a coyote and it's my night to howl. Look at me, Look me in the eye!" All this time dancing and capering around him in the best of humor and endeavoring to and thinking he was having a high old time. This time Bradshaw did not reply, but went out in front of the store, mounted his pony, rode more than a mile north, procured a revolver, an old style navy, returned to the store, threw the bridle reins over his pony's head, dismounted, walked into the store where Griffith was and commenced shooting. After firing four shots, hitting him each time, he went out, remounted his pony, rode north and, so far as has ever been ascertained, is still going. Griffith lived about six months. A reward was offered for Bradshaw, but he was never apprehended.

#### WHEN TIMES WERE YOUNG.

By Frances E. Mooney.

I was only fourteen when my father in Indiana decided to "go west," but even from that young age, the remembrance of that decision and its portending significance remains in detail. Or perhaps because of youth's

intensity and eager absorption the memories are cut deeper and deeper and may be recalled more easily than the happenings of later years.

It was in the dusk of an autumn twilight, we drove up to the place on the West Branch of the Whitewater, which my father had purchased on a previous trip to Kansas, and which my mother still owns. The house was somewhat indistinguishable in the growing darkness and I started on a tour of inspection while the family was still busy at the wagon. With a heart filled with the excitement of actual arrival and beating with hints of the possibilities to come, I opened the front door on the west. A large new room, some sixteen feet square, opened before me. I gave a look around and crossed over to the door on the east to continue my explorations. Opening it I was brought up standing. That door led out into the night again. My feelings here I have never been able to satisfactorily express. Maybe somebody knows. There may be in somebody's heart an understanding. I was without resource. Then the situation bore down upon me. From the big brick house in Indiana to this; from the big, thick woods, where we followed a blazed trail to school, to these bare, treeless plains. Homesickness ran riot. I sat down on a box and cried.

But how soon it all changed. My father began building on to our house, as soon as possible, but even that had ceased to matter. The freedom and happiness of life in the early days in Kansas, I think, may not be equalled by anything that these days have to offer.

Women and girls were not many on the frontier and my father, arriving with a family of girls, ours was a popular place. Of course, we were too young to count, but we had to count.

#### IN SOCIETY.

One of my earliest advents into society was a dance given some miles north of us, at the home of the Messrs. William Spencer and Barney Doyle. And well I remember my wandering search for the hostesses; and remembered even better is the amusement that followed upon my asking, "But where are Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Doyle. Spencer and Doyle were two unattached bachelors keeping house on the prairies and the proprieties of the occasion were unquestioned.

#### THE OLD HOTEL.

'Tis always around the big hotel in Towanda that memory clings deepest and longest. This hotel, built of native timber by Rev. Isaac Mooney, a kinsman of my father, and who afterward became my father-in-law, was the mecca for travellers and the seat of adventure through the pioneer years of Butler. The house was constantly filled with the merry makings of the young people of the family and the permanent boarders, with, from day o day, the added excitement of the transient.

It was, for me, so full of attraction and interest that often my father had to come to remind me that it was time to go home. These were not the days of the telephone and easy messages; when a message was to be, it was in person. And not only was my home two miles and a half distance away from the hotel, but a river without bridges ran between.

Unforgotten forever will be one formidable mid-winter afternoon. A party was to be given and I was invited to stay. Never had prospect seemed so alluring nor temptation pressed so heavily, but more effectual than these would be my father's appearance at the hotel that evening. My heart sank. I confided my fears to her who is now Mrs. A. Swiggett and my sister-in-law. "Ciele, I dare not stay," I said. "If he comes, I'll have to go." Now this sister has always been noted for ability to meet distress with brilliant suggestions. This one was that we walk over to my home and get permission to stay, and that we could cross the river on the ice. Now, the river was not solid ice, but floating ice; and except that we both fell in, the flaws in this suggestion might never have been discovered. And just as we waded out on the other side, we met my father coming into town with a load of grain. We had managed to keep our outside skirts dry and my father did not notice our condition. Permission to stay for the party was given as we climbed into the wagon, and we sat on the grain sacks and let the water run off our shoes. Serious? We laughed, and tried to smother it, and laughed again, until my father asked what we two simpletons found so funny. Back at the hotel, we walked gingerly and with care. But we were not noticed. Another sister, Margaret, had fallen from her horse on the way home from school and had gotten her feet wet. Hot blankets and hot drinks were being prepared and Ciele and I joined the forces to help to keep Mag from taking cold. A glance toward each other would send us both from the room. And to the party we gaily went. Now this was not a season of satin slippered parties; we wore our same wet shoes of the afternoon and either sat on our feet or kept them covered with our skirts.

Another adventure of this same class was on an occasion of a flood on the Whitewater. In company with him who is now my husband, we attempted to cross the swollen river by swimming our ponies. This was no unusual feat—many times I had done it alone. But two traveling men were trying to make the crossing in a single buggy and one of these asked me to take his place and let him ride the pony. We all effected a highly successful crossing except the polite young man. He, with my pony blundering and floundering, reached the bank, drenched and shivering.

We stopped to dry him out, at the home of the Ralston boys, kept by their two precise sisters. As we sat by the fire the water began to trickle from him and run around the room in a little rivulet. It was too much for me. I was young and things always were funny. Laugh, I had to and did, much to the disapproval of the precise ladies. The unfortunate young man had also lost his hat. Therefore my gallant escort

galloped up to Towanda, called out his friend, Jim Clark, took Jim's hat off Jim's head without explanation and returned in triumph.

So many funny things happened in that hotel. One afternoon the two sisters, Margaret and Ciele, were chasing one another through the house. Mag made a disappearance and Ciele, following into a bed room, jumped on the outlined form under the bedclothes and pounded vigorously. Then she turned back the bed clothes and discovered—a hotel guest, who, being indisposed, had retired. Poor sister Ciele! not for all the days that that man remained would she once enter the dining room.

#### ANOTHER TIME.

Horse-back riding was not only an amusement but a means of travel. In this accomplishment I proclaimed proficiency, it having been my youthful pastime in Indiana.

My boasting was met up with, while I was yet a tenderfoot. One evening in Towanda I was persuaded upon a pony also named Towanda and which, I was informed, was a fine rider. We made a fine start and stopped; and nothing I could do would effect another start.

Happening to look back, I discovered a group of heads at various angles, taking note of my plight. Then I knew there was something unusual about the circumstance. Vaguely a remark came to mind that Towanda would not go without spurs. Very hard I thought for a minute. That audience behind me must not get the satisfaction it was expecting. Pride was the mother of my resource. Twisting the pony over to a sunflower, (which was always near), I pulled a flower and filled it with as many pins as I could find about me; with this I gave the pony such a cut that he did not stop again until I reached my father's door. And just now I recall that again, I was going to ask if I might "stay over a little while longer."

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### REMINISCENCES, CONTINUED.

MY PARENTS—THE "QUILTING BEE" CROWD—RECOLLECTIONS OF PLUM GROVE—BACK IN THE SIXTIES—THE LAST BATTLE—"VAGRANT MEMORIES."

#### MY PARENTS.

By William Allen White.

My father was Dr. Allen White, a pioneer doctor, who came to Kansas in fifty-nine. My earliest recollection of my father must go back to a time when I was two or three years old and he was keeping a country store in a little wooden building which we were using as a home. It was located where the new postoffice building site is, facing Central avenue. It was a rambling, one-story, unpainted house, with a chimney rising from every room in it—a rusty, sheet iron chimney. These chimneys sprouted all over the gray roof of the house and it was known in the vernacular of the town as the "foundry." My father kept the country store and sold everything that the pioneers would buy. Later he bought a drug store and moved over on to Main street, and I recollect him even more vividly than I recollect him in the little store. In the drug store I remember him chiefly as wearing nankeen trousers six or seven months in the year, a white pleated shirt (which my mother ironed with great care), and a rather broad brimmed panama hat.

He was a jovial, good natured, rather easy-going man, but I think he must have been very effective, for I can recollect that they hanged him in effigy in Augusta in the county seat election, and that he chuckled and laughed at home and that my mother was very angry and not a little afraid that they might do violence to him. I believe they said he helped in stuffing the ballot box which carried the election. Of course, I was too little, then to know the facts, but I should not be surprised to learn that he knew something about it. He played life according to the rules of the game at that time in vogue, and it was his chief joy in life to get results. He was a Democrat, I remember, and many and many a day I have ridden with him as he drove over the county making the first organization of the Democratic party in Butler county. The Democrats put up a county ticket and I remember this strategy—that they thought if they would concentrate their entire efforts on one man on the ticket they could elect him and so get a foothold in the courthouse. Thus Vincent

Brown was elected, to the surprise and consternation of the Republicans.

My father sold his drug store and bought a farm seven miles north of El Dorado, where he tried to realize a lifetime dream. He had been born and reared on a farm near Norwalk, in Huron county, Ohio. His father had cleared the wilderness and my father wanted to go back to the pioneer living that he enjoyed as a child. So he built on this farm north of El Dorado, a log cabin with a great fire place and rafters whereon hung dried pumpkins and sage and onions and all sorts of festoons that held dried food during the winter. I can see him, winter nights, sitting by the fire, smoking with supreme satisfaction. He had rail fences built all around the farm, and cleared out some woodland patches, and did all he could to duplicate the farm of his childhood. But the day had changed. The farm which he laid out required hired men to work it, and a lot of hired men; for my father was fat and clumsy and could not do very much. And the hired help that crowded around the table made the farm work so hard that my mother could not do it. She broke under the strain and we had to give up the farm and move back to town—back into the old foundry.

My mother was of Irish extraction. Her father was Thomas Hatton, an Irish weaver near Longford, Ireland, and her mother was Anne Kelly of Dublin, the daughter of a contracting carpenter on the docks. They were married in the Catholic Church at Longford, where presumably Anne Kelly's father was working on a contract. I have seen the marriage register signed by Anne Kelly in the church at Longford. They came to America and my mother grew up at Oswego, New York. She was left an orphan at sixteen with a small brother and sister, and she went west with some friends—drifted away from the Catholic church, was converted at a great revival, joined the Congregational church—worked her way through Knox College, doing sewing and house work, learning the millinery trade. The truth is that she did anything she could to keep herself in school, and finally having got what education she could at Knox College, set forth as a school teacher. She came west, taught school in Council Grove and Cottonwood Falls—met my father at a dance and they were married in 1867.

After our farm experience, we moved back to town, and my father, who was an expansive sort of a person and liked to have a house full of company, tore down the old foundry and built what was then a commodious residence. He had so much company that my father and mother talked it over and decided to open a hotel; hence the White House, which my father and mother ran for three or four years. My mother did not like it, but my father was never happier in his life. The nankeen pants, the pleated white shirt, shinely starched, and the panama hat and the white suspenders gleam through the gloom of that day in my memory as a joyous apparition.

I think he lost money every day he kept the hotel open and I think that was his chief pride in life that he wasn't making any money out of his guests. He was something of an amateur cook and loved a good

table. I used to go to market with him in those days when he had the run of the butcher shops in El Dorado, and he would pick out fine, thick sirloins and porterhouse steaks, and tall, fat rib roasts and bring them home to his guests, whom he fed and roomed at \$2 a day. Prairie chickens were common in those days and we only used the breasts, and a little boy and I had to pick them. We also served quail and bass, and buckwheat cakes and homemade sausage for breakfast. It was early in 1882 that my mother, seeing the family fortune failing, rebelled and the hotel closed.

As I have said, my father was a tremendous Democrat, but he was a Democrat with a little "d." One of the earliest family traditions that I now recall was a famous blow-up that he had when Kansas gave the suffrage to the colored man—a proposition which he supported—and denied it to the women. He was a woman suffragist and a prohibitionist. We entertained St. John at our house before the days of the hotel, and in September, 1882, when the Democratic convention at Emporia nominated Glick for governor on a platform declaring in effect for the nullification of the prohibitory law, my father came home and went to bed sick. It broke his heart. He took politics that seriously. He believed in Kansas; he believed in prohibition; he believed in the Democratic party and the nomination of Glick was too much for him. He died in October, though I feel sure that if he had lived and had been able to toddle to the polls in his white linen trousers and his white shirt and panama hat (which he wore clear to the last day of the mild weather in the long Kansas autumn) he would have cast a vote against Glick if it had been the last act of his life.

My mother was an Abolition Republican, as one may infer when one recalls that she was educated in Knox College and sat under the altar of Lyman Beecher, but so great was her loyalty to my father after his death that when Cleveland was elected president in 1884, she set a lamp in every window of the big house the night the news came in and rejoiced mightily at the triumph of her husband's party.

As I have said, my father was born in Ohio. His father was born in Raynham, Massachusetts, and his mother was Fear Perry, who, according to family tradition, was some kin of Commodore Perry, and my father's maternal grandfather was a brother, I believe, of William Cullen Bryant's father, and the White family runs back, near the little town of Raynham, Mass., to 1630; so he was pure bred Yankee and my mother was pure bred Irish, and it was a curious mixture that came into my blood. As I look back over my childhood days in El Dorado, I can see more and more plainly the marked traits of the Irish and the Yankee in our family life. It made a thrifty, hard-working, resourceful, cheerful family and I, more than most boys of my time, was blessed with the environment of books, for always my mother was reading to me. Night after night I remember as a child, sitting in the chair, looking up to her while she read Dickens and George Eliot, Trollop, Charles Reed and the



Victorian English novels. My father, I remember, used to growl a good deal at the performance, and claimed that if my mother read to me so much I would never get so I would read for myself. But his prediction was sadly wrong. It was to those nights of reading and to the books that my mother had always about the house that I owe whatever I have of a love for good reading.

They always kept me in school. It was my father's plan to send me to Ann Arbor to be a lawyer and he left \$1,000. (which was considered a vast sum in those days), to be devoted to my education, and I remember that my mother's sorrow when I quit the University of Kansas without a college degree, was poignant, and that much of it reflected what my father would think, that I should quit school without a college degree.

Those were golden days for me. I look back upon them all with memories of the keenest joy, from the very first recollection of my parents in the old foundry to the day when I set out from El Dorado to make my fame and fortune in Kansas City. Always, in recalling those days, I have the feeling that I was made the special care for the loving devotion of two middle-aged people to whom I was set apart as the most wonderful child that had ever been born on the earth.

How strange it all seems, and how pathetically ridiculous—as, indeed, everything that is pathetic is at bottom ridiculous, and everything that is absurd is profoundly sad.

### THE "QUILTING BEE" CROWD.

By William Allen White.

In the old days, the women of our little community bore their burdens bravely, and it seems now, looking back to that time, that those burdens were heavy ones. Yet they never complained at the hardships, never murmured at the deprivations, which, in secret, they must have felt. For the women, who came to the town in the later sixties and early seventies, were not used to the rough ways of pioneering. They had left comforts "back yonder," left homes of culture in many cases, left sheltered circles and many of the softening influences of civilization which are dear to women—dearer than to men, perhaps—and had come out to the desolate, wind-swept prairie town where they were too frequently poorly housed, roughly fed, and more lonesome than anyone will ever know, unless some day he reads between the lines of the hopeful letters that these brave women sent back East—letters wherein they tried so hard to put the best foot forward, to conceal the disagreeable truth.

In other towns, where the rougher element of society came in first, where the cowboy, and the gambler and professional killer broke the sod for graves, the women folks, who came with these creatures suffered very little with mental anguish. But the pioneer women of our town saw their darkest days in the old times. Life was harsh, full of

drudgery too often, and disheartening. They came here little more than brides—did the women who used to gather around my mother's quilting frames in those first few years. The faces that were lit up by the candles that sat on the corners of the frame, or upon the quilt, were young faces in those days, only a few of them were touched with the never melting snow, only a few of them were scarred by wrinkles then. The picture comes up so vividly to me as photographed upon a child's brain. Mrs. J. C. Lambdin, perhaps a little older than the average, was always an early comer; then came Mrs. Boswell—Aunty Boswell, the children always called her, and she brought flowers with her. Hers was one of the first canaries brought to the little town. She was young and always had a smile for every one, the same smile she wore through all the troubles that came upon her patient, kind courageous life. Then came Mrs. Louisa V. Sheldon down from Chelsea—she often came with her sister, Mrs. Lambdin, and took her place quietly among the others. Mrs. Bronson, plucky, cheerful, full of bright things to make the somber life seem easier, was always there, and Mrs. Edwin Cowles and her sister, Miss Ella McDuffee, came in from their farm below town. Miss McDuffee was one of the first musicians in the little town. She played the first church organ at the old Methodist church, when A. L. Redden was superintendent of the Sunday school, and Frank Hamlin led the singing. The little party around the quilting frames was never complete without Mrs. Dr. J. P. Gordon and good soft voiced Aunt Rachel. The children all loved Aunt Rachel, and she will never know what an event in many a boy's or girl's life, was the coming of Aunt Rachel to a house to "spend the day." Mrs. W. P. Flenner and her little girl came in from their farm down by Conner's. Sometimes she rode in with Mrs. Conner—Warren's mother—who was the youngest of all the party, and perhaps the one most missed when she stayed at home. Mrs. Dr. McKenzie was one of the quiet ones who always helped pick up the dinner things when the quilting was over. Mrs. W. W. Pattison made the jokes for the crowd, and passed upon the moral and financial side of every question that came up. There was no appeal from her decision. Mrs. George A. Hawley came too, sometimes, but not as often as she was asked, for she had cares that kept her close at home, and she was from the further east, Boston, and was shy among the stranger people of the West; she did not realize that they, too, were strangers to one another. One of the quiet, helpful ones who never left the house in the evening until the last dish was wiped and put away; who was always on hand when sickness came; who was gentle-hard-working, patient, and yet found time to make a bright home for her children, a home with books, music and flowers—always flowers the year around—was Mrs. Frank Adams.

There were others who came but these are types. Time had been cruel with some of them; he has been kind to a few of them. They who were young then and in the prime of life, are old now. Most of them are widows and if they are happy it is in the success of their children. It

was the children, we who played under the quilting frame, or scampered at hide-and-seek through the house—that these women worked for and suffered silently in the lonely little settlement, and hoped.

My mother, who is with us here in Emporia, as I write, has lived as they lived, sacrificing, toiling, dreaming as she sang at her work only of one thing. It seems unjust to wait until the carriages file through the woods and over the bleak hill before saying the loving words which these unselfish lives have earned so many fold. They have labored unstintingly and well. Many of them have disappeared from the public, they are not the "four hundred" now. They have sacrificed themselves for a half a century to their children, to their boys who are now men, the bone and sinew of the town; to the girls, who are now young mothers themselves, starting in upon a life of self sacrifice.

We who have reaped the harvest of our mothers' devotion, we who have not understood until the last few years, all the sacrifices that the daily life meant which our mothers lived in the old days, we who are just beginning to realize what Providence has given us—we should be proud of the shy little old women whose names are not seen in the lists of society. We should repay in smiles, the tears and devotion they have given us. It is an old debt, and a just debt, and Gods knows that we and they will be happier if it is even partly paid.

#### RECOLLECTIONS OF PLUM GROVE.

By J. R. Wentworth.

The first time I viewed the Whitewater was in August, 1862. As for settlers at that time they were few and far between. They were located as follows: William Badley, two miles north of my present home, and Joseph Adams. There were several log cabins scattered along the river, but no one living in them down to Gillian creek, where lived Mr. Gillian, who gave his name to the stream. Dan Cupp was the next settler, at Towanda Spring, and then Sam Fulton. Mrs. Kelley and two or three cabins marking the present site of Towanda.

About this time William Badley, George Adams (now deceased) and myself went out to where Wichita now stands and on to Cow-skin grove. We saw there countless numbers of buffalo. How they could have been exterminated in so short a period of time I cannot imagine. On this expedition three of us killed sixteen buffalo. We took the choicest parts of most of them, such as the hump and tongue, and left the rest for the wolves. This, now, we would think a great waste of meat. I built a cabin on my present farm in February, 1866, but did not move here until the following October. I raised a crop in Chase county that summer.

At this time there was not a house east of us until we reached the Walnut and none directly west, so far as I was aware, until we reached the Rocky Mountains. In October, sixty-six, Amos Adams came and settled on his present farm.

There was talk of Indians making a raid upon us but none put in an appearance. However, we left home June, sixty-eight, and went as far as McCabe's on the head of the Walnut and there heard the danger was over and returned to our cabin. Of course we men were not in the least afraid or frightened but were very anxious to get the women and children out of reach of the red men.

In the autumn of 1867, Henry Comstock, H. H. Wilcox and Walter Gilman settled on the creek, north of my farm. Some months before this, T. L. Ferrier and Jake Green came and built log cabins. These were all kind people and good neighbors.

You often hear people pity the early settler because he had so little to eat. I think those who tried, had enough. Game was plentiful, and it wasn't always corn bread and sorghum with us.

### BACK IN THE SIXTIES.

By the late Samuel C. Fulton.

Sam Carter, John Lawton and his mother, myself and family arrived in Butler county June 1, 1860. We camped at Sycamore Springs over night. Next day we went as far as Chelsea. There the people being religiously inclined were holding a meeting in Capt. George T. Donaldson's house, when some one happened to see our "prairie schooner" coming, and the meeting was adjourned to see what it meant. While there I got acquainted with George T. Donaldson, Martin Vaught, Judge J. C. Lambdin, Dr. Lewellyn and others, who tried to persuade us to locate there, but we had started for the Whitewater and would not stop. The evening of the second, we went into camp on the old town site of El Dorado, two miles below the present site. While there I met Mr. Rodman, Dick Pratt and William Thurman. Next day we arrived at our journey's end in the Whitewater valley, at the present town of Towanda. There we found the families of William Chandler, J. R. Mead, William Vann, Sam Huller and Wedon Kelley already located. I took a homestead northwest of Towanda. I put up a cabin and made some hay.

In August I sighted my first buffalo, where Towanda now stands. I followed them and killed two, on what is now known as the Holton farm, just north of Towanda. I was as proud of this exploit as I was of my first pair of red top boots. In January, I accompanied J. R. Mead on his famous wolf hunt, securing 303 wolf pelts by poisoning, in ten nights. In January, sixty-five, Hager, Huller and I went to the same place in the Indian Nation, now Oklahoma, just below the Great Salt Plain, in hope of having as good success as Mead. We arrived at our destination about noon and were just eating our dinner of buffalo meat and flapjacks, when up rode eight or ten Indians, who dismounted, stacked their arms and came toward us with their usual salutation of "How, How," to which we responded by inviting them to eat with us,

which they did. Their head man made a speech of which the only words we could understand was: "If you no shoot, we no shoot," to which we instantly agreed as they made signs that there were more Indians coming. Sure enough they did come that same evening—about 200 of them, headed by "Buffalo Good," who had been sent out by Colonel Leavenworth to bring in the wild Indians. They demanded something to eat and flour, sugar and coffee for their chiefs. There was nothing for us to do but to hand it over. In the morning it was the same thing over again, and when those Indians left we were completely cleaned out and I had to drive back to the first trading post and get flour. Leaving Hager and Huller to make their way back to the hunting ground, I came on to Emporia to get horse feed and provisions. I sent an Indian back home with instructions for neighbor Chandler to bring me a team, which he did four days later. From Cowskin grove going back to the Arkansas I had to wade the big Arkansas which was up to my neck. All this time Hager and Huller were having good success with their hunting, having secured about 200 wolf pelts and some buffalo when I got back to them. We loaded our pelts, first piling buffalo robes on top, and started, when misfortune again overtook us. A hind wheel of our wagon smashed down, breaking off every spoke close to the hub. In a timberless country, excepting an occasional cottonwood, and our only tools being butcher knives, an ax and a jack plane, by incredible labor we made spokes of willow and finally constructed a wheel which answered, and we arrived home without further trouble; and so ended my last wolf hunt. That same year Lawton was killed by a renegade, and in 1866, Sam Carter died with cholera in Towanda. Huller is also dead.

#### THE LAST BATTLE.

By Martin Vaught.

My recollection of El Dorado dates back to fifty-seven when the old town was near Conner's, consisting of a small store, blacksmith shop, a sawmill and a few shanties. The drouth of 1860 and the breaking out of the Civil war broke up the settlement and killed the town. The El Dorado postoffice was established the summer of 1861, with Henry H. Martin as postmaster. The office was kept at his farm (now the Teter farm) and moved afterward on the present town site of El Dorado, when he and Col. C. O. Carr and Frank Gordy organized a town company and laid out the town site, south of Central avenue. The E. L. Lower addition was then vacant, only a few settlers lived near the town. Ben King opened a small store in a cabin not far from the Oldham block. Martin located his general store on the corner now occupied by the Haberlein clothing store. Soon after George Haver brought in a stock of goods for Dr. Allen White and opened it in a cabin near where Dodwell's harness shop now is. The cabin was afterward used for a court house. The next busi-

ness was Sam Landgdon's store. Its principal stock was log cabin bit-  
ters and there were lively times pulled off there. A quarter mile track  
was made running south from the store and there was horse racing nearly  
every day. Then came the Moorehead Bros., who opened a store; Dr.  
Kellogg, and D. M. Bronson also opened about the same time.

The first term of court was held in the cabin referred to above: S. N.  
Wood, judge. I am unable to give the date. Then the location for the  
county seat came up. How well I remember the struggle between El  
Dorado and Augusta as it was my fortune to then be in a position where  
I had to take an active part. Mr. Ellis was county treasurer; M. A.  
Palmer S. C. Fulton and myself were county commissioners. John  
Blevins was county clerk. How we schemed and planned to get a court  
house and finally when the treasury had between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in  
cash, we decided to put up the first building, Henry Martin donating the  
lots. Then didn't some people howl! One Augusta man came to see me,  
and forbade any further action, accompanied by terrible threats, if we  
attempted to use public money for that purpose. But we did it, erecting  
a two-story building, the east one-third of the old court house. El  
Dorado business men contributed liberally. The town then began to  
improve rapidly. The "Times" had been established, (1870) a bank,  
Betts & Frazier, Gardner & Gilmore's store, Fraker & Foulk's hard-  
ware, and the old stone hotel built by Sam Langdon and kept by Henry  
Falls.

Then again came more county seat wars. I can't recall all of the  
county seat elections in their regular order. Neither can I fix dates  
correctly, but for several years the location of the county seat was an  
unsolved question and the elections were not held according to the deca-  
logue. Everybody voted who could be induced to go to the polls and  
no questions asked regarding citizenship. In some cases horses and  
dogs were voted. I know this was the case at Chelsea, El Dorado and  
Augusta. I recall one election held at El Dorado, where the first two  
hundred names were taken from a city directory in alphabetical order,  
just as they appeared in the directory. One of the clerks, I think, Ot-  
tenott, was sent to the penitentiary for six months, as all names on both  
poll books were written by him.

But the great fight came in 1871, I think, when at a meeting of the  
county commissioners, the Augusta people presented a petition praying  
for an election for the removal of the county seat from El Dorado to  
Augusta. Neil Wilkie, B. T. Rice and myself constituted the board in  
this contest. Douglass had joined forces with Augusta, and Mr. Wilkie  
and B. T. Rice were in full sympathy with the Augustans. During the  
consideration of the petition a legal question was raised as to who were  
legal petitioners. Augusta's contention was that a signer did not have  
to be a legal voter at the time of signing the petitions. El Dorado at-  
torneys demanded that only legal electors be permitted to sign. Au-  
gusta was represented by Eugene Aiken and another whose name I

cannot recall. H. T. Sumner and others appeared for El Dorado. A. L. Redden was county attorney. The board decided to defer action until it could consult with him. Augusta kicked and demanded that the question be referred to the attorney general, which we agreed to do.

Right there is where Augusta blundered. They should have withdrawn their petition until the attorney general's decision had been made, for the election must be held within fifty days from the time of its presentation, also requiring thirty days' notice. I think it was about six weeks before his decision was returned. I was chairman of the board and at once called a meeting. The matter was taken up and an election called. As we were not lawyers and the Augusta lawyers did not think of that little irregularity, this election was held, and if either Augusta or Douglass complied with this law I have never heard of it. Illegal voting was done at all of those places; also at Chelsea. When we met to canvass the vote, we found that Augusta had apparently won by a small majority, but before the vote was canvassed the board was served with a temporary injunction issued at the instance of El Dorado by Judge Campbell. Of course, that stopped proceedings until the case came up for hearing, at which time Senator P. B. Plumb represented El Dorado. Judge Campbell dissolved the injunction. Plumb had a bond all made and signed and moved an appeal to the supreme court. Augusta demanded that the board at once proceed with the canvass, but as the attorneys informed us that we would be in contempt if we did so, Rice and myself refused and we at once adjourned.

Excitement ran high. Augusta demanded an immediate removal of the county seat, and threats were made of force to remove it. N. A. McKittrick was at the time sheriff, with I. N. Phillips, undersheriff. One morning, as I was getting ready to go to plowing on my farm in Chelsea township, Constable Sam Rodgers rode up, his horse white with foam. He informed me that the sheriff had the night before moved the county arms to Augusta, locked the court house in such a manner that the officers could not get into their offices. I asked him why they did not break in the doors, and he said they were afraid to do it, and that they wanted me to come at once.

Well, I went. Everybody was excited and anxious. All kinds of rumors were afloat and it was believed that an attempt at forcible removal would be made that night. With a fifteen-foot elm joist we unlocked a door in a hurry. Gen. A. W. Ellet advised barricading the court house. I did not want to take all the responsibility, so I got a team and went to Benton for Rice, but his wife was all alone, so he could not come, but assured me that he would stand by me in any action, which he did. Under General Ellet's supervision we barricaded the court house with native lumber from a saw mill until the General said a regiment could not take it without artillery. Some dozen or so of us stayed up on top of the building all night, while others kept watch in the roads leading to town. But the Augustans did not come. Later

they came, a great crowd, with ox teams, all prepared to load safes and move the records to Augusta. Men were stationed in the court house and on its top, in Ben King's store, all armed ready for action, while Bob Holt, Joe Bowers and about fifty others were in the hall over Gardner & Gilmore's store. But few people lived in the streets. (All this was at the time of a regular meeting of the county commissioners.) In the meantime, Mr. Rice had disappeared. Wilkie was anxious that the vote of the election be canvassed and, with dire threats, Augusta demanded it. I was standing at the court house door with Dr. J. P. Gordon when Phillips came up with a few followers and asked if I was going to convene the board and count that vote. I said "No!" Then he turned to Doctor Gordon and insulted him. Just then some one came and told me that I was wanted at Lambdin's store. When I stepped in the door I was caught by each arm with some pushers behind and was rushed upstairs and locked in, with a double barreled shot gun and a lot of powder and shot. Phillips and T. H. Baker were the leaders and neither of them knew how much peril they were in; that they were shadowed by men who, if any trouble had started, would have shot them instantly. Later in the afternoon they gathered back of the court house, where Baker made a speech, and all Augustans went back home without the records.

This was the last county seat election. The supreme court handed down a decision upholding El Dorado's contention that the election was illegally held. In the early eighties Representative J. H. Fullinwider passed a law providing that county seat elections should not be held oftener than once in five years, and then only on petition of two-fifths of the legal electors. This practically put an end to the contests, though ill feeling continued in some degree.

The tornado which struck the town has been described by others, but El Dorado surely had a dilapidated appearance the next day.

I remember well how we worked to get a railroad down the Walnut valley. Where El Dorado made her great blunder was when Sam Wood came trying to get the people interested in a branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe from Cottonwood Falls down the valley. He came two or three times, but the leading men of El Dorado would not listen to him, but sent to Emporia and Judge Payton came and got possession of one of the meetings and talked of a track from somewhere by way of Emporia. "No, El Dorado did not want a bob-tailed road." Woods' last appeal was that if they rejected his proposition, the road would be built from Newton to Wichita. His prediction came true and El Dorado lost her opportunity to become the metropolis of the southern part of the State. Then again when "Cottonwood" Davis came from the Frisco, he was jeered and insulted by some leading citizens. Augusta got the road. El Dorado was glad to get a "bob-tail" from Florence. "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, it might have been," applies to El Dorado.



But dear old El Dorado, so many years my home. Many sacred memories pass before me and cluster there. Although we are pleasantly situated here, surrounded by beautiful mountains, my heart is still in Kansas, and when I see the old familiar faces, a feeling of sadness comes over me and I can't help longing for the old Kansas home.

"VAGRANT MEMORIES."

By Mrs. J. E. Buchanan.

What follows are reminiscences, or, quoting from David Leahy, "Vagrant Memories" of the old days, beginning with 1868. Prior to that time the place is said to have had some interesting history, but of that others must write who came earlier.

Settled on farms about here and living in log cabins were Archibald Ellis, James McWhorter, George T. Donaldson, Martin Vaught, Elias Bishop, Mr. Jefferson, Doc Lewellyn, all with their families; and five miles south, on Harison Creek, Judge William Harrison and family, excellent people, all exceedingly kind and hospitable. These were the real pioneers, who had braved the dangers and endured the hardships of a new country, making it easier for, and receiving with friendly welcome, those who came later. Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Coggeshall were also here, and were newly-weds. Doc Lewellyn was a rare type of the pioneer. He could tell us of encounters with Indians and "bad men" in the old days when he freighted supplies from Kansas City to the little settlement here. Those were the days when the early settlers had to be shrewd, as well as brave, combining the wisdom of the serpent with the harmlessness of the dove.

The year 1868 brought many new comers. The Parson brothers, J. K. Nelson, J. C. Becker, Otis Saddler, William Hoy, Jake Skinner, and family, Henry Bell and family, George Sain and wife, H. O. Chittenden and wife and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Buchanan. Messrs. Bell and Skinner were proprietors of a saw mill, which had recently been brought here. As the fall and winter advanced, we sought sociability and entertainment in "get-together" meeting one evening each week in the cabin which had been used for a school room. This cabin stood a little ways east of the Stone house, now owned by Mr. Holderman, and is long since a thing unknown. About that time came also Mrs. Louise Shelden and family, from Illinois. She brought her aged father with her, John Vaught, father of Martin Vaught. He died not long afterward, and was one of the first to be buried in the near-by cemetery. How vivid in the mind of the writer is the memory of those pleasant evenings! So novel the surroundings—so interesting the people! Our little circle was made up of representatives from different States—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New England. The weather, however stormy, never scared us from going out. Though the "Kansas zephyrs" held high carnival out on the prairies and the coyotes howled in the distance, what cared we, for within was "the feast of reason and

the flow of soul," so to speak. These "debates," for such was the appellative given our meetings, never lagged for want of interest. We were not afraid of one another and almost everyone participated. One prominent member was George T. Donaldson, eloquent, logical, and even then, when it was unpopular, an advocate of equal suffrage for women. He had been one of the old "fifty-seveners," a soldier in the Civil War, and had figured in the troublesome times which had made the early history of Kansas so tragic and heroic. A brave and capable man was Donaldson, now in the prime of life, but on whose brow, alas! death was so soon to set his seal. He was killed accidentally, suddenly, in the fall of 1869, while preparing to build a new residence (the stone house).

Our debates were alternated by "sings," or rather singing sociables, for they were interspersed with a good deal of conversation and witty repartee. They were conducted by Mr. Becker (Calvin). He was at that time quite a young man, but had seen service in the army, had a fine taste for music and had been well drilled in the same. He was a younger brother of Howard Becker, now of Chelsea. There were no cast-iron rules, but we had to remember the correct time was the most essential factor in music and governed ourselves accordingly. He was strenuous also along the line of expression. There was one piece which had in it, "This is My commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you." It was an anthem. We were not always in a mood to sing it to suit him, but sometimes we did and somehow he loved to linger over that piece. Those songs developed into the "Chelsea Glee Club," and in the absence of Mr. Becker we were led by Mr. Shelden (the late editor), then a young man of bright promise. They both sleep their last sleep in Belle Vista cemetery.

Miss Lizzie Shriver taught the school that winter. At the close of the term she married George Ellis, and is now a resident of El Dorado. Edward Donaldson, banker, and Marion Shelden, real estate dealer in Topeka, were then gentlemanly lads in their early teens. J. G. Shelden was "Johnnie," man and cattle inspector, was a little tad in his first trousers. Lizzie and Permilia Bishop, bright little girls, are now of Sycamore. Dollie Donaldson, a veritable prairie flower, her father's favorite, is Mrs. Corwing Reed, in the northern part of the State. At that time a Dr. Kellog was superintendent of public instruction. He resigned and moved to Caldwell, leaving his unexpired term to be filled by J. E. Buchanan, of Chelsea. Mr. Buchanan was elected to the next term. While in office he did a good deal of work in the formation of new districts over the county. He made his journeys on horseback to his bearings, starting out across the prairies, apparently regardless of roads. Twenty new districts were formed while he was superintendent.

In 1870, there came quite an influx of people. The Rayburns, three families of them from Bloomington, Illinois, and with them George W. Stinson, present mayor of El Dorado. J. B. Shough, also from Bloomington, began immediately the erection of a hotel. About that time

John Houser, a skillful young blacksmith from Michigan, appeared on the scene, bringing with him his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farnham. Dwelling houses began to go up rapidly. Two stores of general merchandise, blacksmith shop, drug store, the proprietor being Mr. Zimmerman, of Cincinnati.

I have omitted to say that all this while we had Sunday school, generally well attended. Judge Harrison and family used to come over, and now a church was organized, a Presbyterian, with quite a good membership. Rev. James Gordon, brother of the late Doctor Gordon, was the first pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. William Stryker. The ladies now formed a project for getting a bell for the new school building. They took turns in getting up "suppers," each lady doing her very best, the proceeds to go for purchasing the bell. These suppers were the occasions of much hilarity and fun. (Weren't they, George?) At any rate, the bell was bought. Miss Alma Henderson, from an Eastern State, was the first teacher of the new building. Not long afterwards she married Neil Wilkie, of Douglass, where they have since resided.

It seems that at an early period Chelsea had been the county seat of Butler, but the old timers, being mostly interested in stock raising and having, so they said, "no proper place to keep the records," had, in an unguarded hour, allowed the same to be transferred to El Dorado. Later, some years having elapsed, the people got ambitious and an effort was made in connection with Augusta, to regain the county seat. The argument was that Butler was large enough for two counties, with Augusta the county seat of one, and Chelsea the other. But the scheme proved futile. The El Dorado voters stood "shoulder to shoulder" in the matter. The other side had too many "Barkis is willing." So that is where Chelsea as a town lost prestige. A change came over the spirit of her dream. Slowly but surely began the process of disintegration. J. B. Shough, proprietor of the hotel, sold out and moved to Kansas City. Dr. Zimmerman, druggist, went back to Cincinnati. J. M. and M. C. Rayburn, with their families, also went to Kansas City, all but Jennie, who had married George W. Stinson. The saw mill vanished. Dwelling houses were moved out onto surrounding farms. The church, denuded of most of its members, languished, and the town site gradually lapsed into a corn field. But did Chelsea put on sack cloth and sit down in the ashes, By no means! Divested of all county seat illusions, she girded herself and put on new strength, but along different lines. New people came and were stayers. The Bensons, Osborns, Joshua Carter, Daily brothers, Joseph McDaniel, John Houser and others. These were solid citizens, developing the country. Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Coggeshall are still with us. The Methodist Episcopal brethren took up the church work. We have always had preaching and Sunday school. The postoffice, of course, went out of business. Then the rural route was established. "Chelsea," once remarked the late Editor Sheldon, "whatever she may have become since, was once the Athens of Butler county."

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### REMINISCENCES, CONTINUED.

MY FIRST NIGHT IN EL DORADO—MEMORIES—A HUNTING PARTY—DR.  
JOHN HORNER'S RECOLLECTIONS—SOUTHEAST BUTLER—EARLY TIMES  
—A STORY OF THE DAYS LONG GONE—MEMORIES OF PIONEER DAYS.

#### MY FIRST NIGHT IN EL DORADO.

By H. M. Logan.

It was a crisp, cool evening in the fall of 1871, a bunch of us had ridden from Eureka, thirty-five miles, and no dinner. In our party were, just from the East, two tailor-made dudes, with yellow kids and cigarettes, I think, making their first trip West. As we were alighting from the old stage at the hotel, we were met by the usual crowd of onlookers, among whom was Frank Gordy, who seemed to take extra notice of the two dudes and I think, immediately made up his mind to give us tenderfeet a touch of Western life. Gordy is the man who once owned the original townsite. He had given the city a park, the ground where the court house stood, and had helped in many ways to boost the town, which seemingly had made him a privileged character. He could shoot up the town or anything else and I think the marshal was instructed to turn his back. He had been selling town lots and had money. He would often ride into a saloon, set up the drinks for the house, light his cigar with a \$5 bill, then perhaps ride into some store where every one was supposed to dance to his music.

At the hotel the lamps were finally lighted, the dining room door thrown open and we all rushed in, hungry as bears. Almost before we got our napkins adjusted, there was an ungodly yell, a regular Indian war-whoop, and four shots from Gordy's revolver got the four lights, which not only left us in darkness, but almost scared to death, especially me. I knew I was shot somewhere, but didn't know where. There was a great deal of commotion. Everyone ran into everyone else. I got pushed into the stairway and kept going up, shaking like a leaf. I got into a room, almost too small for one to change his mind in, put the bed against the door, and with my clothes on got under all the covers to keep from getting shot again. I put the pillow on the top of my head. Still I kept shaking and wondering if there was anybody else killed besides me. I thought how foolish I had been to give up a good job in the G. Y. Smith dry goods store in Humboldt and come out here to get

shot the first night. No, I never knew whether they buried the two dudes the next day or just rolled them into the creek, or they may have gotten away alive; if so, perhaps they are still going. Once when footsteps were passing my door I heard some one say, "Webloguamasigna," which in Indian means "a dollar and a half," but as I was not on to the Indian language then I suppose it meant just to add to my other pleasures, they would kindly get my scalp next. In order to be ready for them I got up. Say, reader, could you have seen big tears running down the back of my neck, there to mingle with the spots on the rug. I almost know you would not have laughed. I thought it almost enough to bring tears to the eyes of a potato. How many times would you have gone to sleep thinking that on the morrow, perhaps, your scalp would be dangling to Mr. Indian's scalp pole? Do you know of anything more pleasant to think about after you are dead? I almost know that was the longest night ever was since nights were invented. But why prolong the agony or even set this to slow music, for after a while everything became so very quiet that one could almost hear a gum drop. I must have gone to sleep, for the next thing I knew the sun was shining through the cracks. Part of the hotel was stone and part was boards. Perhaps they were short on boards, for they seemingly had left about fifteen or twenty minutes' recess between each board. But I smelled breakfast cooking and after a hasty toilet I got down to the first table, on which there were good boiled buffalo meat, dried buffalo jerk, hash, bacon, eggs and sorghum. When I asked for cream the girl told me the old cow had broken her lariat. We finally got some blue milk, which I think had been skimmed top and bottom. But everything tasted good, and I enjoyed my breakfast, after which we took a look at the town. It was small, but growing. In our rambles we passed the old school house, where later the noted William Allen White and chums did what they could to make life miserable for the old professor.

Across the avenue from where the Murdock home now stands was Boot Hill cemetery. About where the I. O. O. F. hall now stands a Mr. Sheets kept a wholesale liquor house, where the feeble minded assembled. There out in front Frank Gordy and his crowd were getting ready to pull off something. We got there just in time to hear Gordy say: "Now, gentlemen, we will entertain you a few minutes with some fancy dancing by this young galott, who has dared to come to El Dorado wearing a diamond and tailor-made clothes." Two quick shots from Gordy's revolver knocked splinters from the board walk near the young man's feet and the dance was on. I immediately thought it more pleasant back on Main street. Although I was not wearing diamonds or tailor-made clothes, I suddenly thought it best to go back to the hotel and write to my boy chum in the East. In that letter I remember of telling him at last I had got to where the cyclones fan the people to sleep, 'way out in Kansas.

The June previous El Dorado had almost been wiped off the face

of the earth by a cyclone. The effects of it were still very much in evidence. I afterwards learned that shooting at the feet of tenderfeet to make them dance was Gordy's favorite stunt. But one day he bet on the wrong horse and met his "Waterloo," for when he commenced to shoot at Lish Cook's feet, Lish knocked him through a glass front. As Frank lost a part of his nose going through the glass, that ended the shooting business for poor Frankie.

I was soon given a position in a store and went to work. Almost in the center of the block was the old Red Light saloon, which was a very busy place both day and night, so I was told. But there came a day when the proprietor could no longer pay and his creditors seized his goods, which consisted of a lot of barrels, half barrels and kegs, all of which contained more or less of the stuff usually sold over a Western bar. To save paying rent on the building until the goods could be sold, the officers got permission to put them in the basement of the store where I worked. For some reason best known to them, the sale of the goods was put off from time to time, but all summer long almost every one at the court house, from the janitor down to the judge on the bench, kept coming after the keys to see if the goods were keeping all right. In the fall when I saw them selling the empty kegs, I thought perhaps I had not done my duty by not taking my friends down in the cellar once in a while. But I was young then and had been used to telling the truth (part of the time). I supposed the goods were to be sold for the benefit of the creditors.

I will admit there are always more or less hardships to be endured in settling a new country. Although almost half a century has now gone to swell the greedy past and many changes have taken place, quite a number of the old landmarks still remain, around which cluster many pleasant memories. Of those early days we had much for which to be thankful. Then the old stage brought the mail almost every day and but few had to worry about their bank accounts. How different was the Kansas of the seventies to the Kansas of today, which is now the brightest star in the galaxy of States, and I believe the only State that ever harvested 181,000,000 bushels of wheat in one year, and now has 500,000 boys of school age who have never seen a saloon. How does that sound to the Eastern States that have such stringent laws that they won't allow a church to be opened within 400 feet of a saloon? No, their old saloon pays a license and has to be protected. Honest, now, don't their laws need fixing?

I often wish the old timers of the seventies could see the little city of El Dorado today, with her paving, white way, long shady streets, large, well-kept lawns and handsome, modern homes with their winding walks and vine-wreathed porches, where in early spring-time the honey-suckles, trailing low, stoop to kiss the drooping daisies. But, alas! only a few of the seventy-ones are here now. While a number of them have migrated to other parts, many, many old time, early day, never-to-

be-forgotten friends have taken their last ride to the silent city and there they sleep, where all down through the coming years the summer breeze will ripple the grass on their graves, the sunbeams lovingly caress the grass-grown mounds and the winter snows cover them softly over. They have gone to that other clime, but

“You have all heard of that land,  
On the far away strand,  
In the Bible the story is told;  
Where the storms never come,  
Neither darkness or gloom,  
And nothing shall ever grow old.”

Now, in conclusion, I will say that forty-four times the Christmas fires have been kindled on the hearthstones of many happy El Dorado homes; forty-four times the meek-eyed daisies have struggled through the April snows and blossomed, faded and died; forty-four times the church bells have proclaimed an old year dead and New Year born since that long, long first night I spent in El Dorado, 'way back in 1871. All through these forty-four years of busy cares, of struggle and achievement, of hopes deferred and victories counted, my days have run in shadow and sunshine with more of practical fact than poetic dreaming, through it all I have learned to like the climate and the people, who have always treated me well. Then, too, here is where our babies were born and have grown to manhood and womanhood and taken their places in the world of affairs. So it is only natural for me to expect to spend the balance of my days in Kansas and perhaps I will eventually sleep that long, long sleep 'neath her blue sky and green sod, for, nestling 'mongst old apple trees on the brow of a hill that overlooks the beautiful Walnut river, we have a comfortable little home, where

The vines are ever clinging,  
And the geraniums are ever fine;  
And the birds are ever singing  
For that old sweetheart of mine.

#### MEMORIES.

By Elias Bishop.

Requested to add my mite to the historical events of an early date of our county, I will say, on the spur of the moment, without time for premeditations, I hardly expect to interest any one.

I came to Butler county April 17, 1866, in company with two men and a boy who were hauling flour from Emporia to Mead's ranch, now Towanda. We struck camp at the George Danaldson ford on the Wal-

nut at Chelsea postoffice, which I think has about held its own up to date. The next morning I was to quit my companions and hoof it over to the west branch, where father and family were located, but parting was not done until after the kid and I had a fight over a pair of yarn socks that grandma had given me ere leaving Iowa. While we were spitting noses, Old Uncle Ben Gordy rode into camp and inquired if there was a boy there by the name of Bishop. I says, "Yep, isn't your name Gordy?" I had known him eight years previous to this in Iowa. Well, that kid fight was off, but I got my socks. Mr. Gordy directed me to my folks. Gordy was father-in-law to Penrose Johnson, of the Johnson family that were drowned in a ravine near the west branch, six miles north of new El Dorado. Old El Dorado was three miles south. The mail bags were the only things to be moved up to the new town. At this time we had to go to Emporia to the mill. We would occasionally go to Mead's ranch for groceries. If Henry Martin got out of bacon, we could get bacon at the ranch for thirty cents per pound. Martin's little store was one-half mile south of James Teter's present home. Sam Langdon brought two loads of groceries and his family and other belongings, and struck camp on a claim belonging to his nephew, William Cowley, about one mile north of Main and Central, in El Dorado. He began to display his goods in a way that didn't suit Martin, who came over and gave Sam ten cows and calves for his goods, with an understanding that Sam should hike. Sam hiked to Leavenworth, sold the entire bunch, doubled his former stock of goods, came back and set up shop in a log cabin belonging to Ben King. King had a homestead, a part now of El Dorado. Mrs. Langdon and myself sold goods, while Sam ran a freight wagon from Leavenworth. We sold red top boots that cost the firm \$2.50 for \$5; ten cents for a clay pipe, the same for a box of matches. We had considerable Indian trade. We could get our price for a blanket that took an Indian's eye. Martin meanwhile got up on his ear. He bought and located a saw mill near where the central bridge is now across West Branch. He sawed material and put up a store building on the southwest corner of the (now) city square. He moved his goods and began business in earnest. Ben King put up a board shanty, stretched a sheet across the center, stored his wife in one end and stacked up the other end with a few jars of caudy, cigars and tobacco. A man by the name of Strickland bought a kit of blacksmith tools. Sam Langdon went out of the mercantile business and bought a stone hotel on the southeast corner of the city square and New El Dorado became an organized town, and Old El Dorado dropped out of history. New El Dorado progressed slowly, but kept pace with the wants of the people. Coal oil was two prices those days, twenty-five and thirty cents per gallon. We had not struck oil yet. This was a great stock country; stock roamed at will. After the herd law came into effect you could get a cow and calf herded for the season for seventy-five cents. There were many deer, antelope and other kinds of wild game and great numbers of buffalo west of Wichita.



Butler county in an early date had many hindrances to progress. Indian scares (usually proven to be whites, I won't say men), that would send numbers up the branches yelling "Indians, run for your life." Many times the settlers would run to Emporia and leave their stock for the villains to drive off.

Of course, we had our share of grasshoppers, cyclones, floods and droughts and added to these the agitation of the county seat, but also came the good old bumper crops and withal the pleasures of the old times were greater than now.

### A HUNTING PARTY.

By John L. Cupples.

In 1873 buffalo were still plentiful within fifty to seventy-five miles of Wichita. It was a common thing for the people of Butler, Cowley and other neighboring counties to get out "on the plains," which then meant Kiowa, Harper, Pratt and Meade counties, and that section of Kansas, and there kill their winter's meat and make a few dollars besides from the buffalo hides (worth \$3 each in Wichita) and wolf skins. The last of November, December and January were the best months, when the buffalo were still in fine condition and their skins were covered with the long hair that effectually protected them as they fed upon the bleak prairies. It was noble game and when we, like others, killed the animals we wasted much of the carcass, took the tongue, the hind quarters, the tallow, the hide and left the rest to the wolves. Many wolf pelts were taken by poisoning the wasted meat. The hind quarters would be hung up to freeze and used through the winter of "jerked"—cut into strips and put for a short period in boiling brine and then dried. Buffalo hunting was great sport, but in this case there was tragedy and suffering in it.

On January 16, 1873, Henry Martin concluded to take some goods and go to the Medicine river and trade with the Osage Indians. He loaded five wagons, those of Stephen Fowler, W. E. Smith, John Carpenter, Tom Lafferty and his own. Some young fellows decided to go along and hunt buffalo and have some fun. Dr. Sherrod Dutton with Henry Martin, Josh Holden with John Carpenter, Ed Fowler and his father and myself with Tom Lafferty, Sam Betts with W. E. Smith, McFarland and Alfred Comb went along with the teams. The first night we camped at Wichita. It began snowing, with increasing cold. By the time we got to Nineseah, it was cold and we concluded to camp. We undertook to double teams across the river with the loaded wagons. Martin started in first. The river was quite high and the team became unhitched in the middle of the stream. Martin jumped into the water to his waist. The river was full of slush ice. He righted the team and Dutton drove it out. We finally all got across and camped for the night.

The next morning it was snowing and continued to all day, but we drove on and came to the Chikaskia river by night. It was late and we did not cross. The next morning there was a foot of snow and the river was frozen over. We stayed there that day. The next night was colder. In the morning we undertook to move and found the ice almost strong enough to hold a horse. We drove to the river and chopped a road through the ice. The weather began to turn warm and more snow came from the south. About noon the wind shifted to the north and by 2 o'clock there was the worst blizzard anyone ever saw. We were then on the divide between Chikaskia and the Medicine rivers. The wind blew so hard and the snow fell so fast we could scarcely see from one team to the other. The trail was covered with drifted snow so that no one knew which way to go, and could travel only the way the storm drove. Right at this time we fell in with five or six more teams, hunters from Cowley county. We stopped and held a council of war and concluded we could do nothing but wait until the storm ceased. This was about three or four o'clock in the afternoon. Most of the men were panic-stricken, but a few of us concluded we were not out there to perish. Some of the men covered their heads with blankets and laid down, seemingly indifferent to their fate. Several of us tried to get them to make an effort to protect themselves by moving, exercising, but they seemed lifeless, despairing. One man took an ox whip and whipped three men out of a wagon, where they had lain down without even a cover on the wagon. Some partly unhitched the teams, which stood shivering and suffering in the storm and cold. One man unhitched the tugs and the team drifted off with the storm. The next morning we found that Henry Martin, Doctor Dutton, Stephen Fowler and Alfred Combs were badly frozen. We took sacks of ear corn and built a fire on a knoll where the snow had been blown away, and carried the helpless men to it and cared for them as best we could. We sent out a detail to find some place of shelter. They soon came to the cedar brakes of the Medicine river, where the deep canyons were full of dead dry cedars. We moved in there, leaving our wagons on the top of the brakes and taking our teams down into the canyon and stayed several days. Two of our horses died from exposure, which left an extra wagon. We doubled up and moved on, came into the "big timber" below where Medicine Lodge now stands. There were about 300 Indians camped there. We hunted four or five days, got all the buffalo meat we wanted and started back. Coming to the Chikaskia, we saw several buffalo cross the river. Steve Fowler became very uneasy about the buffalo; if we could only get across the river we could get some of them. Steve had his frozen feet done up in blankets. They were badly frozen. One of the hunters said: "Steve, get your gun and we will go down to the river and look at it." The river was running full of slush ice and there was no chance to get across on the ice. The hunter pulled his boots and stockings off and rolled his breeches up to his body and carried Steve

across and got the buffalo. All of these men are still living except Martin and Sam Betts. Martin died from the effects of the trip and Sam Betts moved to Ohio and died some years afterward.

I neglected to say that the trip was not barren of financial results. Dutton was left behind on the Medicine river and traded the goods of Henry Martin to the Indians for buffalo hides, wolf pelts, tanned and manufactured furs, etc., and later came safely home. At one time we thought that Dutton would at least lose his hands from freezing. His fingers, hard as sticks, stood out like limbs on a tree. He told me he was as good as dead, but I took him out of the wagon to the fire and sought to cheer him. He told me to make some flour dough and wrap his fingers in it, which I did, tying strips torn from a blanket on over the dough. Strange to say, he recovered. Several of the men were very severely frozen, but escaped with their lives. Martin came home and survived for a month. The flesh from one heel sloughed away, gangrene set in and he died.

On this trip probably twenty buffalo were killed by our party. Lower killer some. John Carpenter, who had no gun, killed one with a horse pistol. The Indians were after the herd as well as we and drove it on us. Carpenter was lucky to hit one in the back, breaking it. The Indians did not get a single buffalo. I do not mean to boast, but I got fifteen.

One evening we camped about sundown and while the men were caring for their teams I went to a deep canyon. I saw a monster buffalo feeding on the dead buffalo grass. I got to within thirty feet of him, as the wind was blowing from him toward me. I watched him quite a while as he ripped the trailing grass from the soil. When I shot he fell to his knees, then settled down with his legs under him, quivering in the throes of death. I discreetly approached him from the rear and jabbed him with my gun barrel. In an instant he was on his feet and after me. I jumped down a bank; he barely stopped at the brink and fell dead.

#### DR. JOHN HORNER'S RECOLLECTIONS.

There are many things as well as many associates of my early days in Butler county that have passed beyond the vale of recollection. It is a long time to look back over and cull one's memory, and still there are many things not obliterated. Of such I will write as they now recur to men.

I came to Kansas in March, 1870, located my claim, went back to Humboldt, in Allen county, took out my homestead papers, bought a side of bacon, a half bushel of potatoes and a sack of flour, returned and took possession of my claim on March 25, 1870. By dark I had my wagon unloaded and the wagon cover stretched over my traps, except my side of bacon, which was placed on top of a pile of dry wood. I slept soundly

through the night. In the morning when I went to prepare my breakfast I discovered that wolves had made away with my meat. I could see where something had been dragged over the burned prairie. I took the trail and after a while found a small piece of the side, covered with dirt and teeth marks. I cleaned it as well as I could and after going nearly a mile to the creek after water, had "flap jacks," coffee and broiled bacon for my breakfast.

A few days later it rained all day so hard that I could not get my meals, as I had neither house nor tent. Near evening, being very hungry, I took a few slices of bacon and a cup of flour and went to my nearest neighbor's house, G. P. and I. H. Neiman, and we had a sort of a union supper, they furnishing eggs and coffee and I the traditional "flap jacks" and bacon. I spent quite a pleasant evening. Bidding the boys "goodnight," I started for camp. The night was very dark. I went to where I thought the camp ought to be, but the blame thing wasn't there. I concluded that it had run away and started out after it, but after running around and over the prairie for several hours I gave up the chase and concluded to go back to the Neiman brothers' house and stay there the remainder of the night. Their house, like my camp, had disappeared and was nowhere to be found. I concluded that it was a night of revel for inanimate bodies and, being tired and almost frozen, I became reflective. A good comfortable home back in Illinois gradually came to my view; then a wife and three little fatherless girls began to appear in cycloramic form; then came along an old hay shed, that was real enough, for I crawled in, got under some rubbish and shivered till peep o' day, but did not sleep. Everything had got back to its proper place in the morning, and I concluded to stay a while longer, and am here yet. In those days we went to El Dorado or Towanda for our mail, to Cedar Point for our flour, and to Emporia for our lumber. Once I was out nine days for a load of lumber and it rained every day.

In the fall of 1870, all things had changed. Nearly every quarter of a section had an occupant and houses were quite numerous. We were the only ones at that time who had an organ, and on Sundays our home was usually overrun with persons, many of them very good singers, so the day was passed in singing Sunday school hymns and music. Once in the fall of 1870, we had twenty-five visitors and our store of supplies being about played out, my wife called me aside for advice. She said there was a little flour, a few eggs and a few squashes on hand. I told her all right, we would do the best we could under the circumstances. So we went to work to get the meal while the girls were to entertain the company. The following is the bill of fare: Corn coffee, water gravy, baked squash, stewed squash, squash and batter mixed and fried, squash muffins, then at the head of the list for pastry came squash pie. All went away seemingly happy and well pleased. Wife said I was a "Daisy" and I guess I would have been dazed had it not been for the supply of squash.

As we had no schools at that time our girls were required to have a lesson every day, my wife being the teacher and superintendent of household affairs, while I broke sod with a team of ponies and said bad words all day, and studied anatomy and physiology at night and recited to my wife.

#### SOUTHEAST BUTLER.

By M. A. Palmer.

I am not given much to writing, especially to remembering things that at the time seemed ordinary, and therefore I fear I cannot write entertainingly of my early experiences. I came to Butler county in February, 1867, and on the way met Archibald Ellis on the Cottonwood river. He had already lived here some ten years, and encouraged me to come on down. I saw the McCabes near Sycamore Springs, old man Boswell on his farm at El Dorado and Ben King, then a grocer on the townsite of El Dorado. I also made the acquaintance of Frank and James Gordy and Sam Langdon.

I took my first claim on the Walnut below El Dorado, but in June, 1867, decided that the farm I now own on Little Walnut was good enough for me. It has made me a good home and I can truly say I made it with my own hands. In June, 1867, when I settled here, there were four families on Little Walnut, and there was decided freshness and newness about the country. I knew all of the early comers here—Dave and Henry Yates, C. C. Bowers, Lee Bottsford, Jack Brinley, Charles Tabing and Mr. Rankin. Then there weremany later ones like Sam Hyde, G. W. Packard, Peter Johnson, the Lambdin boys, G. A. Kenoyer, Captain Armstrong and many others.

I think we must have been a pretty good lot of people. We organized the Vigilantes, but had no cause to act. There was trouble down on Hickory Creek when Capt. Jack Armstrong was kukluxe'd, but we didn't regard that very seriously. I was with a party in 1868 that pursued and captured two Osage Indians who came into the county and killed two men. The Indians were raging because they were losing their territory by treaty(?) with the whites. They slipped in and finding Samuel Dunn and a man named Anderson camped two or three miles south of Douglass, shot them and cut their heads off. Dunn and Anderson were alone and unconscious of danger. The Indians, in addition to other plunderings, took \$270 from Dunn, and a span of mules, and returned to their agency. Birney Dunn, G. D. Prindle, myself and a number of us pursued the two Indians, who surrendered to us and were taken to Topeka for trial. The court decided it had no jurisdiction and sent the prisoners back to this county.

On the return the sheriff and the Indians stopped over night with Nelson De Moss on South Fork of the Cottonwood and the Indians escaped. They were never recaptured or punished, I believe. This

illustrates one of the perils of the time. The great flood of immigration soon satisfied "I-o, the poor Indian," that he had no chance battling with the pale face and this, I think, was the last of their raids and depredations.

#### EARLY TIMES.

By Mrs. M. E. Bronson (Mrs. C. E. Dickinson.)

In the winter of sixty-eight the praises of the beautiful Walnut valley reached the ears of myself and family while at Topcka. We were not long in loading our earthly possessions in a wagon and setting out for the new land. With the night came my first experience in camp life. I tried to be romantic and to enjoy the beauties of nature; imagined myself walled in by the air, domed by heaven's blue, lit up by the eternal stars; my ear caught the sound of rustling leaves and rippling stream. I was soon brought down to the practical for, looking out in the twilight, I saw a large wolf. When supper was served our couch was arranged on the "ground floor," more substantial than comfortable. That would was no insomniac, so the time was passed painting pictures on invisible canvas, the principal figures being reptiles and wild animals. A newly married couple had joined us. They made their bed too near the fire. I ventured my advice about the matter. They treated it with derision, saying they had camped out before. In the night I detected an odor, and discovered that their bed was on fire. They smothered the flames, wrapped the fragments about them and again lay down to pleasant dreams.

The wagon at last stopped and the driver said, "This is El Dorado." My heart stood still and my tongue refused to wag, for my disappointment was great. I did expect to see a few houses in a place assuming a name suggestive of such possibilities. My little boy, looking into my face, said, "Mama, is this heaven?" He had heard his papa describe the country as a perfect paradise. I sat in that wagon, gazing at the little log store which I was told was Henry Martin's and that he was postmaster.

Mr. Bronson had purchased a claim in partnership with a bachelor. On it was a cabin. In his absence that bachelor had found a wife and she informed me that the cabin would not hold two families. A deliverer came, Jerry Conner, who offered us a temporary home in his cabin, which was gladly accepted. A number of bachelors were here and they seemed to almost venerate me and made me feel I was a special creation. After a couple of months this theory was dissolved by a woman passing on a load of hay; it was Mrs. William H. Thomas.

To prepare food, corn meal was fixed up in so many ways it lost its identity; dried pumpkin stewed and seasoned till it disclaimed relationship with its kind, and shorts was converted into brown bread that was not ashamed to meet its aristocratic Boston relative, the bean. My

honesty was severely tested too. Mr. Conner had secured a half bushel of potatoes for seed and whenever I looked at them, for safety, I repeated the proper commandment. How happy he made me by saying, "You can cook a mess of those potatoes, but carefully cut the eyes out." They were about the size of walnuts. Our sleeping room also served as sitting room. When I awoke the first morning after arrival, a half dozen men were sitting around the fire place smoking and I didn't arise. About nine o'clock Mr. Bronson came in expecting breakfast. "Are you going to lie here all day?" he asked. "Yes," I said, "unless those men vacate." "We do not do that way here," said he, "we just turn our backs!"

In the spring of sixty-eight, El Dorado was platted. The first of July we moved into our house; it was fourteen feet square, set on four stones, lacked a door, windows, floor and roof. The rest of it was all right. We worked by evolution in those days, slow but sure. Every day a few shingles went on our roof, for they were divided up as fast as made.

In sixty-nine, one evening while sitting by my little three-legged stove, trying to keep it warm, for it was aged, there was a knock at the door and a gentleman, two young girls and a boy stood there. "Can you keep my daughters over night? I can find no accommodation here and they are very tired." One room and one bed. Looking again, I saw they were in mourning, and I felt they were motherless and in that wilderness. I made them comfortable in the only bed, my family reclining on the soft side of a hard wood floor. One of these young ladies afterward became the wife of Alvah Shelden, so long the editor of the Walnut Valley "Times." We sometimes really "entertain angels un-awares."

About this time we celebrated our second Fourth of July. I was in a dilemma. My cook stove sat out in the prairie. It wouldn't bake, but Mrs. A. M. Burdett came to my relief. I went with her and we baked cake. In the absence of butter we used ham grease. How do you suppose we got it? It was very much like the children of Israel got their manna. Mr. Burdett and Mr. Bronson were riding on the prairie west of town and found a pile of hams (possibly lost by some freighter). They divided them and carried them home. The two families revelled in the ham, fried ham, boiled ham, and ham devilled, for some time. It was a Godsend and we accepted it as such.

The little slab real estate office of Bronson & Kellogg was the embryo of present "land advocate." Small papers issued at much expense were the instruments that slid the great American desert (located here by eastern emigration) far to the west, making it possible for the present real estate men to bring in excursionists by the car load, feed them at hotels and transport them over the country in easy carriages. The first farmers turned the sod and planted the trees that broke the drought and frightened the grasshopper back to his home on the plains.

The first physician rode over the country on horse back with saddle

bag. If the patient survived, Mr. Doctor took his pay in wild fruit or something like it; if he died he could look to the next world for pay but held no mortgage here.

The first lawyer dispersed Gladstonian eloquence over a Texas cow. At the termination of the trial he held either the horns or the tail while his client sat extracting the lacteal fluid. The attorney now is found milking the cow, while his client is holding her and wondering why this is thus.

The first evangelist labored hard and long, and one convert was the result; he secured that one by marrying her! The first preachers came, like the apostles of old, on foot. I am afraid they would be called tramps now. There was no creed-repeating automaton, dealing out ecclesiastical nostrums, nor did he carry a pitchfork of excommunication. He simply taught to love God and man, reaching alike the iron clad Calvinist and the agnostic Ingersolian; sowing the seed from which sprang these beautiful churches and all they represent. The first Sunday school was taught in the grove on the banks of the Walnut. I taught the Bible class and was neither a biblical scholar nor a church member. Many times I was confounded by questions. When wound completely up I would say I thought there were some things God did not intend for men to know and I thought it wicked to be prying into such things! I sowed the seed but do not know that it germinated.

The buck-board was in time followed by the stage, the stage by the railroad. The weariest years of my life were spent while waiting for the railroad. With that came all the elements of civilization, development and improvements and that most necessary commodity—money, without which little can be accomplished. I am glad I am done pioneering but I recall those early and humble days with keenest pleasure. I was younger then and cares had little hold on me.

### A STORY OF THE DAYS LONG GONE.

By James Dodwell of Wall Street.

The old chair, formerly Jerry Conner's, referred to in a late issue of the Daily "Republican" is still doing service, holding a warm place in the old pioneer harness shop, the first bank building in El Dorado, and it has seen its best days. The lumber was freighted overland from Emporia to build the pioneer shop. There were very few chairs in its class forty-five years ago in El Dorado township. The early settlers were not overburdened with furniture of any kind and most of the homes in El Dorado were furnished with the very plainest, often home made, furniture. Much of the necessary household articles were freighted in overland by emigrants.

The country was undeveloped at this time, and El Dorado was a little inland town of two or three hundred new settlers. The business



houses were nearly all one story frame shanties. There were only one or two two-story structures on the townsite. One of these structures stood where the Farmers and Merchants bank now stands. The upper part of the building was known as the Chicago hall, and it was here that public meetings were held. Another, Martin's general store, stood on the corner now known as the Haberlein building. The print shop of the late T. B. Murdock was in the upper rooms, and it was here that he put out the first issue of the Walnut Valley "Times." Through the agency of his paper Mr. Murdock urged upon the newcomers the beautifying of their homes by the planting of trees, etc.

Among the first of the early settlers to come here were Dr. Allen White, H. M. Johnson, Dr. McKenzie, Charley Selig, J. H. Betts and others. I remember that about this time Judge A. L. L. Hamilton made his famous walk from Florence to set stakes in the little inland town of the Walnut valley to make it his future home. The judge to this day claims that he rode in on the southwestern stage from Cottonwood Falls, but the other story is told on him.

The pioneers and young men of those early days had not time to sit around in rocking chairs, puffing a clay pipe, and the very few that did, had to use kerosene and tallow candle lights to see with, for the residents' residences and business houses that could sport two kerosene lamps were going some. The young men who came here forty-five years ago today with a firm determination to hew out of the, almost, wilderness, are now the backbone and sinew of the beautiful little city of El Dorado. While there was little time for play and plenty of hard work, yet they did find time for pleasure, such as it was. Their chief pleasure was the playing of harmless tricks, the tin canning of every strange dog that landed on the townsite. Every emigrant caravan passing through would have a plentiful supply of the felines. Conspicuous in this favored sport were Frank Frazier, Charley Foulks, J. H. Betts, John Donnelly, George Brockaway, Jimmy Decon and others. Bill Cain, who clerked for Frazier and Charley Foulks always managed to keep a supply of tin cans on hand. One afternoon when business was a little quiet, Donnelly, whose place of business was where the Walnut Valley "Times" now is, noticed a mule hitched out in front. The jokesters got busy and tin canned a man's dog. The dog ran out through the building and right under the mule. The mule scared and took hitchcrack and all through the town, while the merchants flocked to their doors to watch the fun. The farmer threatened to bring a damage suit against Donnelly, but the bunch compromised by visiting Jim Thomas' and lining up to see who could get away with the most, feel the happiest and get home safely.

Jacob Decon who emigrated from Michigan and settled on a homestead in Fairview township, brought a big shepherd dog with him. Jake was a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat, and he soon found he was the only man in the township without a party, so he started out to hunt up and

organize a party of his kind in Butler county. He brought his Michigan dog to town and visited Frazier's corner. While being introduced, his dog was being canned. But the dog barked when we tried to attach the can, turned around, looked the bunch over and walked out of the store with the can tied to him and lay down in front of the store to sleep. But Jake got his Democratic organization, and as Frank Frazier always said, he was a good organizer. But he never could land any of the pie. He found Dr. Allen White, Vincent Brown, Archibald Ellis and others in ahead of him.

In those early days the little town seldom saw a show of any kind, only such as they put together for their own amusement. One time the first circus to pull off a show in El Dorado brought their skin games with them and some of the citizens fell into their trap. One man, after coming to town for the circus, made the remark that he had never seen a Texan steer play the game any better. He had been fleeced himself, but after several visits to the bank and a call on Attorney Gardner, the circus folks gave his money back, and he succeeded in running the whole circus bunch out of town. Money was a great thing in those days, and as we look back and recall the only few who are here now, we take pleasure to give the best part of the old room in the pioneer harness shop to the old chair that has seen its best days; because the chair is one of the writer's most cherished belongings, it is to him a reminder of his early days in El Dorado.

#### MEMORIES OF PIONEER DAYS.

By Mrs. W. H. Ellet.

My advent into the State of Kansas dates from May 10, 1872, having left my native State of New Jersey on the 5th in company with my mother, to visit a sister who came with her husband here in 1868, and who lives on the same farm that they settled upon then, about twelve miles from Topeka. The journey then seemed to the friends we left behind to be a very great undertaking and almost interminable and all said, "Why what do you want to go to Kansas for, it is a desert and a wilderness and you will be scalped by the Indians. I don't ever expect to see you come home again." And sure enough they didn't, for several years at least. In 1876 I visited the centennial in Philadelphia, which was my first trip east, for it was not very long after reaching here and during my visit in Shawnee county before a certain gentleman with long dark hair curling all around and hanging down on his shoulders and a broad brimmed black hat, having heard of my recent arrival here, put in an appearance at the door of my sister's house one day, and after being ushered in in a very hospitable manner as is the custom with Kansas, he sought to renew the old acquaintance of earlier days in my Jersey home and to tell the old, old story, which is ever new. Suffice

it to say that in October of that same year I came with the aforesaid gentleman as his bride to Butler county. We came by rail as far as the beautiful little town of Florence consisting at that time of perhaps a half dozen little houses all told, but it contained among those a hotel where we were compelled to spend one night, and such a night I shall never forget for it was one of horror as we could neither sleep upon the bed or upon the floor, owing to the unnumbered marauders, who chased us from one place to another until sleep was out of the question and we had to dress ourselves in sheer desperation and wait for daylight to come. When the morning came, and we were glad to see it, after partaking of a very frugal and meagre breakfast, the old stage coach with its four horses attached came lumbering up in which we were to resume our journey to El Dorado. It did not take us long to arrange ourselves and luggage and with the comforting thought that now at least we could get a peaceful nap, when our attention was called to a gentleman whom we found was to be our traveling companion, and was introduced to us as Mr. Black, who, by the way, is our own inimitable Judge Black and fellow townsman of the present day. There was one other occupant of the old stage coach that day that was much in evidence at times all along the journey. Thus was made our debut into Butler county. Many and great have been the changes since that time just forty-four years ago. But that thirty mile ride in the old stage coach still lingers in my mind. But as all things must have an end so it did, and about dark we were rewarded by having the town of El Dorado pointed out to us, and we at last reached our destination, and I think twenty houses would count everything on the townsite. And now the first thing that we anticipated was in store for us was a rousing big charivari as was the custom in those days, but instead of that a very pleasant surprise party had been planned for us at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ellet who were living in the little home that had been built by our father, General Ellet, for them when she came here as a bride. I came here in the same capacity and a strange coincidence it is that myself and husband should occupy the same house after a lapse of so many years. But to return to the party. It resolved itself into a dance and as all were tripping the light fantastic toe, suddenly a lady, one of our number, tripped out of her white underskirt and without seeming scarcely to attract the attention of the dancers, gathered it up and threw it across her arm and on with the dance. In the early days Mr. Ed Ellet was joked about building his house out so near Towanda and asked if he would have his mail come to El Dorado or Towanda. For there was then what seemed to be a large tract of unoccupied land between his home and the four corners where our main streets now intersect. This lot now is the choice location upon the townsite. The first large surprise party is said to have been given at their house, (the question now arises, where did you put them?) the guests taking canned cove oysters, crackers and canned fruits, and Mrs. Ellett furnished the milk and home made cakes

and the jolly time of that party was the topic of talk for many weeks. Among that number might be mentioned the Gardners, the Foulks, the Fraziers and the Ellets as being contemporary. E. J. Hitchner, who was a guest at our surprise party and whom some may remember, was a partner with my husband on the ranch that was afterward my home for about three years previous to my arrival. He remained with us a short time and then in a few months decided he would return to New Jersey. He did so and became my successor in the same school I had taught just before coming west and in the course of time married my very best girl friend, thus showing how strangely circumstances adjust themselves. We moved the last of October, to our ranch which was twenty-five miles distant from El Dorado in a southeast direction and there we established our home, "we two." Our modest little home consisting of five rooms stood on quite an eminence overlooking the broad prairies as far as the eye could see, nothing but prairie, and a little line of timber skirting the streams. So different from the heavily timbered country of my own native land and yet I was in love with it and the spot for our home had been chosen by my husband because he had killed a deer there, which seemed to me to be quite romantic and odd. And although neighbors were few and far off and many a day I would not see any one but my husband and never a wagon passing, I think I can truly say I was not lonely. I busied myself in my work, trying to add a touch here and there each day to make our home more attractive and homelike and every new article of furniture or anything we added in those days seemed a great possession. What a pleasure in setting up a home of one's own. There is a new interest every day. Occasionally while at my work I would suddenly be startled by a sound or grunt, but never a knock, and upon looking up there would be standing perhaps by the door or window one, two, three and perhaps more, great, burly, big Indians wrapped in their gay blankets. One morning in particular do I remember an Indian came and seeing a little fat puppy running around the yard begged my husband to give it to him. He said "puppy-heap-soup." In the course of time and in the order of natural events, a little girl came to our house to make it her home, and two years later another, both of whom are now grown to womanhood and are now, as most of you know, identified with two of the pioneer families of Butler county. In two years again a son and heir was added to the family of Ellet and we called his name William after his father. He, too, has left the home nest and in true succession has established a home of his own with a life partner, both of whom commenced school days together and the school boy and girl flirtation ripened into an everlasting union.

What a dreary time it was for the pioneer up to 1875, which was a tremendous crop year following one of great drouth and devastation by grasshoppers. To the prosperous Butler county farmer of today the distress and privation of the early settlers here is not understood or realized. They tried the very souls of men or the people and few were

steadfast and remained to win the battle. There are few old landmarks left to show where some poor unfortunate had failed to make a success and in a fit of despondency deserted his claim, but they are mostly all gone now and replaced by the thrifty farmhouse with its shade trees around it and a fine large windmill and an orchard of good bearing fruit trees, and a splendid grove of trees planted in many instances for cool and refreshing shade under which cattle can shield themselves from our hot summer sun, all of which bears the stamp of thrift, improvement and industry.

Well do I remember when our first railroad reached El Dorado. I stood with Mrs. Ed Ellet on the porch of the little house which was then their home, and which has since been ours, and we hailed with delight the long drawn out whistle of the first engine that entered our town one beautiful summer evening. A friend was visiting us at the time from Topeka and standing with us exclaimed, "Oh, I am so glad. Now I will not have to make the journey to Florence in the old stage coach. It is called the El Dorado branch of the A. T. & S. F. and came into our own town on or about the first of January, 1877. Then, indeed, did we feel that we were being drawn nearer to civilization.

And well do I remember when the new town of Leon sprang into existence. It was founded in the fall of 1878 by Mr. C. R. Noe who in 1879 began the publication of the Leon "Indicator," and which, by the way, would be very interesting to know that the first two issues of it were printed on the "Times" press in El Dorado. Leon is said to be the fourth city in size in Butler county and is a thriving town of about 800 people and a credit to our county. It made a pleasant stopping place and diversion for us in our long journey of twenty-five miles in going back and forth from El Dorado to our ranch. We would often stop and refresh both ourselves and team then in better spirits. It is perhaps fresher in my mind than any other town because I watched it grow from its infancy and it seemed to be just where it was most needed. El Dorado, Augusta, Douglass, Leon, Whitewater, Towanda, Brainerd, Potwin and Chelsea and a number of minor towns constitute the principal ones of Butler county. Kansas has been called the home of the cyclone, but in later days, if Kansas can surpass some of the terrific ones that we hear of in the eastern states and along the coast I hope I may never see it. The early settlers will remember, however, the dreadful tornado of June 16, 1871, which was the year previous to my arrival, in which it is said more houses were blown down in El Dorado than were here in sixty-nine, and in which our friends, the late Dr. McKenzie and wife, lost a dear little one. Also the one which occurred on the night of March 31, 1890, which utterly destroyed the town of Towanda and laid so many homes desolate and several lives were lost. Nine, I think, were badly injured and some fatally. I remember standing one summer afternoon with my husband on our porch at the farm and while the sun was shining brightly and the rain falling heavily and glistening like

dewdrops, our attention was attracted to the strange aspect of the sky and we noticed about six miles distant up on Rock Creek we could see the dark and ominous clouds gathering and rolling and resolving themselves at last in the shape of a funnel come down until it touched the earth and seemed to scatter everything within its reach. It struck an empty house (fortunately) on the prairie and demolishing it, scattered it to the four winds until scarcely a vestige of a board could be found.

## CHAPTER XXX.

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### REMINISCENCES, CONTINUED.

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#### EXPERIENCES OF A LAWYER.

By T. A. Kramer.

JOE EVERTSON—JOE EVERTSON AND THE FOOL BOY—GARDNER'S HEROIC EFFORT—TIGER BILL—AN INTELLIGENT JURY—A DEFENDANT WHO LIED—THE COLONEL'S STRATAGEM—A GAME OF POOL—THE COLONEL AND DAN—MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

Many humorous incidents have occurred in the experience of the bar in Butler county, but most, if not all of them, must have been seen and heard to be fully appreciated. They lose half their interest in being told. For instance, no more amusing event occurred in the courts of Butler county than Mike Murphy's lawsuit over the horse he had bought.

To appreciate the story one must have seen Mike, who was a true son of Erin, have seen his quaint dress, his grotesque figure, his rich brogue and quaint expression. You must have seen him turn square around in his chair and face the judge and with many gestures say, "Well, Mis-ter Jackson, it were this wa-y." You must then have heard him explain to the judge that the horse that he bought was unsound, and explain to the judge wherein the horse was unsound. You must have seen his look of surprise and disgust when the case was decided against him. You must have seen him indignantly stride from the court room repeating again and again, "It's n-o fa-ir, Mis-ter Jackson, its n-o fa-ir." You must have seen him as he left the court room, return once more to the door and shout back at the judge, "It's n-o fa-ir, Mis-ter Jackson."

#### JOE EVERTSON.

Joe Evertson, in the early days, lived on the Little Walnut. He was continually quarreling with his neighbors. He was a good friend to the lawyer. He thrived on lawsuits. Seldom was there a term of court when he did not appear as plaintiff or defendant, or both, in several legal tilts. He kept the justice of the peace of his township busy in the meantime.

One time court convened. The judge arrived from Wichita, took off his coat and hat, proceeded to his desk, looked gravely over the court room and said, "Is Joe Evertson here?" Someone replied that Joe was in town and on his way to the court room. His honor then gravely said, "Well, then, Mr. Sheriff, you can open court."

#### JOE EVERTSON AND THE FOOL BOY.

In Joe's numerous lawsuits he employed, discharged and re-employed, in turn, most of the lawyers in the county. For a while George Gardner was his dependence. George's business called him from home more or less and he had a boy lawyer in his office who opened his mail for him and looked after his affairs in his absence. One morning the young lawyer, in the discharge of his duties, opened a letter from Joe, wherein Joe informed George that he had an important lawsuit on hand before a justice of the peace in Leon. He explained the situation and asked George to be on hand fully equipped and ready for a fight. He wound up by saying, "Don't send that fool boy of your's; I can do better than he can myself."

#### GARDNER'S HEROIC EFFORT.

Speaking of George Gardner, who is now dead and gone, will recall the fact to all who knew him that he was one of the most powerful advocates that ever addressed a court or jury. We believe that no other lawyer who ever practiced in Butler county, or in the State of Kansas as to that matter, was his superior as a trial lawyer. Part of his success was due to his earnestness and the faith that he always had in his cause. George would not take a case where he believed his client was not in the right, but George could never be made to believe that his client was not right. It was said of him that he could not salt a gold mine and sell it to some one else, for before he got through with the job he would be so enthused in his enterprise that he would believe in the genuineness of the mine himself and refuse to sell it at any price.

Well, George had won a verdict in a hard fought battle. A motion was made by the attorneys on the other side for a new trial. The court called the motion for hearing. George asked to be excused until he could go to his office and bring his authorities. No sooner had he retired for that purpose than the attorney on the other side said to the court that he had come to the conclusion that there was nothing in his motion and that he would withdraw it. The judge, finding nothing else to do adjourned court for the term, just after which George returned into court, staggering under the weight of a load of law books he was carrying. The judge, who had not yet retired from the bench, with a sly wink at the rest of the lawyers, said, "I have grave doubts about this verdict; I do not believe it is necessary for the other side to say any-



thing, but unless Mr. Gardner can convince me that the verdict should be upheld I will have to sustain a motion for a new trial." This surprised George, but did not daunt him. He opened one authority after another. He talked long and loud and earnestly. He expounded and re-expounded, but the judge was very hard to convince. He kept finding fault with the authorities that George produced and said they were not in point. He could not see the application which George strove to make him see, and finally, after talking for at least an hour, with the perspiration rolling from him in great beads, completely exhausted and hoarse from talking loud and earnestly, George sat down in disgust. The laugh that followed George's effort did not cease until George "set them up" to judge, lawyers, clerk, sheriff and everybody else.

#### TIGER BILL.

W. P. Campbell, a lawyer who came to El Dorado in the early days, was appointed by the Governor, judge of the new district. While on the bench he acquired the name of Tiger Bill, how or why it is not necessary to consider, but he was some judge, and whatever other faults he may have had, his worst enemy never called him a coward either in a legal battle or in a physical contest. One day when he was presiding during a session of court at El Dorado, a jury brought in a verdict which very much displeased him. He turned to the jury and informed them that the life, liberty and property of the citizens of the county were not safe in their hands; that they were discharged for the term, and that he hoped to never see any of them again. Naturally, the jurors did not like this. They went down to the front door of the court house and resolved that the judge should see them again; that they would wait until he came out and make it hot for him. The sheriff overheard the mutterings of the jury, and in order to avoid bloodshed and keep the judge from being lynched, went to him privately and gave him a hint as to what was going on, and told him to remain in the court room until the jurors had dispersed. But that was not Tiger Bill. He gave a snort, stuffed his hands in his pockets, walked deliberately down out among the jurors, paced up and down in front of the court house in their full view and within easy striking distance, looked them square in the face and waited for the attack, but it was never made.

#### AN INTELLIGENT JURY.

It was during Tiger Bill's term as judge that the jury found a defendant charged with stealing hogs not guilty, and the foreman gravely arose and asked the court if he might say a word or two to the defendant. Having obtained permission, he, in the name of the jury, gravely advised the defendant not to steal any more hogs.

## A DEFENDANT WHO LIED.

A man was once charged with stealing hogs. On his trial, which occurred at El Dorado, several people swore that he had admitted that he stole the hogs; in fact, had boasted of it, but there was a great deal of prejudice against the prosecuting witness. The attorney for the defendant appealed to the prejudice of the jury for sympathy for the defendant's family, and in turn grew livid with hate when he spoke of the prosecuting witness and shed crocodile tears when he pleaded for the defendant, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. The defendant then said, "Well, I always thought I stole those hogs. I said I stole them, several people testified that I said I stole them, but twelve good citizens of this county have said that I did not, so I have come to the conclusion that I must have lied about it.

## THE COLONEL'S STRATAGEM.

One of the old time lawyers in Butler county was Col. Henry T. Sumner. He did not spend a great deal of time burning the midnight oil or pour over miserable books, but his forensic powers were not to be despised. The colonel had taken a claim down in Spring township close to the banks of the Walnut. He lived on his claim and practiced law occasionally in El Dorado. Now the worst sin of the colonel was that he imbibed too freely, and as his credit was not always of the best he sometimes, in order to satisfy his appetite, resorted to stratagem. One morning as the colonel strode along the banks of the Walnut he observed the judge and Bent and Marsh in a boat yanking the bass from the waters. The colonel knew that the trio were prudent and careful men. He knew they would not risk themselves upon the dangerous waters of the Walnut without being supplied with a liberal supply of antidote for snake bite. He further knew that the brand of Skalavanacus used by them was of the best, and the colonel was powerfully dry, for, as the Governor of North Carolina said to the Governor of South Carolina, "It has been a long time between drinks." So he threw out hint after hint and refused to depart. Now, the trio were not by any means dull or stupid. They understood the colonel's hint; and neither were they tight-wads, but they knew the colonel's failing and they did not want to have one plain drunk charged up against them, so they continued to fish, but did not offer the colonel a drink. Finally the colonel said, "Do you fellows want a drink of whiskey?" The solution of this difficult question was now easy. "No, thank you, colonel, we have some," to which the colonel replied, "That is just what I thought; now, I haven't a drop." He got his drink.

## THE COLONEL AND IVERSON.

Another character of El Dorado was Iverson Williams, an old colored man, an ex-slave. He was by no means a fool, and had learned enough of the white man's ways to let his wife own the property while he owed the debts. He lived in a little cabin near the old Christian church that is now used as an office by C. A. Aikman in his grain business. Now, this cabin of Iverson's was a low structure and could not have been reached by lightning if the lightning had wanted to strike it, on account of the taller buildings near it, but a slick lightning rod agent persuaded Iverson that his property and family were in great danger, and that the only way to protect them was to rod the cabin thoroughly. Iverson agreed and the agent with his men proceeded to literally weight it down with rods and cause it to bristle like a porcupine with bright, shifting points pointing heavenward. It certainly looked fine and Iverson was much pleased until the bill was presented. The amount of the bill was about equal to the value of the cabin with the ground on which it stood. The agent would not be put off, but insisted on being paid at once and made all sorts of dire threats as to what he would do if the bill was not paid. Iverson in great distress went up town, where he chanced to meet Colonel Sumner. He laid his case before the colonel, and after the colonel had given the matter a few moments' consideration the following dialogue took place:

The Colonel: Say, that property is in your wife's name, isn't it?

Iverson: Yes, sah.

The Colonel: Did your wife authorize you to contract for the lightning rods?

Iverson: No, sah.

The Colonel: Go back to the lightning rod agent; it does not make any difference what he says, just say to him, "My wife never authorized me to make that contract."

Iverson followed the colonel's advice, and to all the threats and demands of the agent he replied, "My wife never authorized me, my wife never authorized me." The agent finally understood that Iverson had come out best and went away, leaving Iverson and his family undisturbed in their cabin and protected from the bolts of lightning by the aforesaid rods and points. A short time after that the colonel, who was hard up as usual, went to Iverson and asked him for the sum of \$10 for his services. Iverson scratched his head, studied a few moments and looked up at the colonel, with a twinkle in his eye. "Colonel, my wife never authorized me to employ you."

## A GAME OF POOL.

It was during the famous Jessie Morrison trial. Two lawyers on opposite sides of that famous case went to Missouri to take depositions. When they arrived at their place of destination, a small village, they hunted in vain for a notary public before whom they could take their depositions. The Missourians did not know where there was any notary public; in fact, did not know what such a critter was, but further inquiry resulted in a discovery that old Squire Smith lived about a mile and a half in the country, so the attorneys, taking their witnesses with them, proceeded to the residence of Squire Smith to have their depositions taken. Squire Smith was found to be an old man, an ex-Confederate soldier, full of talk and reminiscences and very much interested in the Jessie Morrison case, the reports of which in the paper he had read with great interest. The depositions were duly taken, and the squire noticed from the address on the envelope that the depositions were to be sent to El Dorado, Kan. He at once plied the attorneys with questions concerning the Jessie Morrison case. He returned to the village with them and insisted on introducing them to all the prominent citizens, telling all of the aforesaid prominent citizens of their connection with the famous Jessie Morrison case. After the attorneys had been introduced to almost everyone in the village, finding that the train was late and that they still had an hour or more time to kill, they went to a pool room and engaged in a game of pool. The squire declined their invitation to join them, but sat on a bench watching them and told all newcomers who they were and what they were doing, and never forgetting to mention that they were attorneys in the Jessie Morrison case. Finally an old-timer came in and sat down by the squire and slapped him on the back and asked him if there was anything new, to which the squire replied that he had been taking depositions in a lawsuit that was to be tried in El Dorado, Kan., the place where the famous Jessie Morrison case was being tried; that the lawyers who had been taking depositions before him were attorneys in the famous Jessie Morrison case. He pointed to the aforesaid lawyers where they were engaged in their game of pool and said, "That strong, straight, handsome fellow is one of the attorneys for the prosecution; that tall, slender fellow that is playing with him is one of Jessie Morrison's lawyers." Now, these lawyers had devoted a great deal more time to studying Blackstone, Chitty, etc., than to playing pool, and their efforts in the latter game were rather amusing to the old time players who were watching them; and just as the squire had finished his remark the attorney for Jessie Morrison made a play that was anything but brilliant. He made a dive for the cue ball, missed it and knocked two or three others, off the table onto the floor, when the Missourian to whom the squire had been talking to said, "Well, all I've got to say is that if he is not a darn sight better lawyer than he is a pool player, Lord pity Jessie Morrison."

## THE COLONEL AND DAN.

Dan Bronson was a lawyer in the early days of El Dorado, but he did not allow the practice of law to interfere with his "legitimate business." His "legitimate business" was abstracting, real estate and insurance. One day Colonel Sumner called at his office to put through a deal that he was anxious to make. Dan told him he would submit the proposition to his client in the East. The colonel insisted that Dan should then and there write a letter to the aforesaid client. Dan took his pen in hand to do so (that was before the days of stenographers; there perhaps was not a lawyer in the town whose business amounted to as much as the salary of a stenographer). Now, the colonel was a little bit suspicious that Dan might not sufficiently urge his acceptance of the proposition, so as Dan was writing he quietly tiptoed to Dan's back and looked over his shoulder to see what he was writing. Dan pretended to be all unconscious of this and finally wound up his letter with this statement: "I would say more to you, but there is a — — son of gun standing over my shoulder reading every word I write you, so I cannot say any more."

## MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

A young El Dorado attorney had just been admitted to the bar. Court was in session. He was sitting inside the bar hoping to get a case and afraid that he would get one. Finally the case of John Doe, charged with boot-legging whiskey, was called. John Doe did not have any attorney or any money with which to employ one. The court looked over the court room and announced to the young attorney that he would be required to defend John Doe. John Doe also glanced at the young lawyer and his heart sank within him. He thought seriously of changing his plea of not guilty to one of guilty and begin serving his sentence and getting it over with. A smile passed around the court room and some of the older lawyers remarked that John Doe was sure to be convicted anyway and the young lawyer might as well practice on him an any one. It was announced that John Doe's case would be called the following morning, and he was to be ready for trial. The young lawyer realized the gravity of the situation, and then he would have given a fortune, had he possessed it, if he had never read law, and another fortune if he could only clear John Doe and turn the laugh on the other fellows. He examined the indictment and found that John Doe was charged with having sold liquor to Alex Blair. The lawyer talked with Alex. Alex said he had bought whiskey of the man; he had never seen him before the time, but was sure he would know him if he should ever see him. He said the fellow wore long hair, a short beard and wore a snuff colored coat. The lawyer went to the jail to examine his client minutely and found that the description tallied, and

that the snuff coat, long hair and beard were in evidence. He thought long and earnestly. That evening he told the undersheriff, now dead and gone, who had charge of the jail, that if he ever had a chance to favor him, the aforesaid lawyer, now was the time. He pledged his sacred word of honor and professional integrity that if the prisoner, John Doe, was intrusted to him for two or three hours in the night that he would be returned safe and sound. The request was granted. The lawyer had a particular friend, a barber, who was told to keep his shop dark that night, but to have the back door open. The snuff colored coat was exchanged for one of a very different hue and make. Next morning when the State vs. John Doe was called, as the defendant sat beside his attorney, clad in a coat of black, with his hair cut short and minus a beard, a jury was duly impaneled. Alex was called to the stand and asked to point out the man of whom he had bought the whiskey; he said he could not see him. His attention was directed to the defendant, and he swore he had never seen him before in his life. Verdict: Not guilty.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

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### REMINISCENCES, CONTINUED.

THE VICTORY OF HALF A CENTURY—A PIONEER—STORY OF EARLY DAYS—  
PIONEER DAYS—A PIONEER OF 1868.

#### THE VICTORY OF HALF A CENTURY.

By B. R. Leydig.

Running from northeast to southwest across the northwestern corner of Butler county in an early day was an Indian trail worn a foot deep by the countless hordes of savages passing to and fro either on the war path or to hunt the buffalo in the short grass country. It crossed the Whitewater just above the timber on the head of that stream.

In the summer of 1861 a team drawing a covered wagon was laboriously wending its way northeastward along this trail. It belonged to Horace H. Wilcox, and with him was his wife and five children, two daughters and three sons. Formerly from Illinois, where he still had some interests, he had some years prior to the war moved to Southern Texas and engaged in the cattle business. He was a strong Union man, plain, blunt and outspoken, and on the breaking out of the war was given twenty-four hours to hunt a more hospitable clime. He did not use it all, but started north on horseback and a few days later the good wife and the children followed in the wagon, meeting him beyond the Texas line in the then Indian Territory.

When they reached the crest of the ridge west of the Whitewater, in northwest Butler county, they were entranced with the beautiful sweep of valley and timber; before them lay one of the gems of the prairie. Turning to his wife he said, "Mother, this is the prettiest spot I ever saw. Let's go settle our business in Illinois, return here and make it our home." Being a good wife with pioneer blood in her veins, she consented. In 1866 they came to the head of the timber on the Whitewater, built an eight-room stone house and stone barn, long marvels for size and elegance in the community. Neighbors there were none. This stately solitude was the beginning of a splendid empire.

Five decades of activity led by hope, crowded with activity, privation and toil, won with energy and crowned with golden success have marshalled with the past since the first entrancing glance on the

valley from the hilltop beside the Indian trail. The log cabins and sod houses of the early day have given way to modern homes with all conveniences and elegant appointments. The prairie is a vast, well tilled field. Stock by the thousands are turning the grass and golden grain into a richer stream of golden wealth, an Arcadia where the church, the school house, and a development of a nobler citizenship are the hand-maidens of the nature of the valley, and wealth is not sought for wealth's sake, but for the blessings it may confer.

Uncle Horace and his good wife have long since been called to the golden shore. Those who followed the blazed way and settled in the valley grasped the horn of plenty and are now the embodiment of prosperous contentment, and if perchance the call of the wanderlust should for a time lead them away, ever returning as they come to the crest of the hill they involuntarily exclaim, "Mother, this is the prettiest spot I ever saw."

Such is the victory of a half century.

#### A PIONEER.

By B. R. Leydig.

Tired nature has again yielded and mother earth has again taken her toll. This time a pioneer, an old friend and neighbor. The realities of the early days are fast becoming the legends and romance of the present time. What a flood of memories the crisis of the passing of a pioneer and neighbor brings, and how the heart grows tender as one after another of the kind acts of the deceased pass in review. No one can measure the loss this and the coming generations have and will suffer because the vicissitudes of the early days have not been written and preserved.

In the first days of March, 1872, as a boy of ten, and a few days after arriving in Kansas, my brother and I saw a man working near the corner of our homestead, and boy like went to where he was. After the greeting we asked him what he was doing and he said he was setting out some "cottons." He was sticking cottonwood slips in the ground around where he intended to move his house, and afterwards they grew to be the largest cottonwoods in the whole neighborhood. This man was I. A. Shriver, who a few days ago was called and laid away in the silent city of the dead, at the age of eighty-three.

He was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood, married and entered in the stock business. Afterwards he moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, and in July, 1871, with his wife, daughter and son, moved to Clifford township, Butler county, Kansas. They came in a spring wagon drawn by a mule team, and camped on the bluff on the east side of the Whitewater on section 17. A few days later he bought the farm of Walt Gilman, who was the second settler



in what is now Clifford township. The first settler in that township was Horace H. Wilcox, who settled there in 1866. Then came Walt Gilman, who was a blacksmith and who established the first blacksmith shop in northwest Butler. Then came W. D. Show, who was afterwards sheriff of the county, and T. L. Ferrier. Mr. Shriver at first built a small box house on the north side of his farm, and shortly after we first saw him setting out the cottonwood slips, his son, Jacob, rode down to our house with a note stating that as we were now in balmy Kansas and among strangers we were invited to his house on a certain evening to meet the neighbors and get acquainted, and in this way was established a neighborly intercourse and friendship that had lasted through all these years, and the many acts of kindness on the part of himself and family have from that day to this maintained a lively sense of gratitude, which I know was fully reciprocated by his kindly greetings during this long acquaintance.

Mr. Shriver was by nature endowed with a strong, quick mentality, with a natural tendency toward the law, and his father desired that he become a lawyer, but the lure of the stock business and the more open physical opportunities and activities controlled, much to the regret of his father, as I well remember his father on a visit he made to his son in the eighties say, "that he wanted Ingram to be a lawyer, and if he had followed his advice he would now be Chief Justice of the State of Pennsylvania. He was a man of great courage, energy, confidence and decided convictions, which not only made him a leader, but occasionally led to strife.

In that early day, before the era of the herd law, Mr. Wilcox had about one thousand head of cattle grazing on the range where they pleased, running over the homesteads of the settlers and among the cattle were some two dozen young buffalo that he had captured as calves on the range west of the Arkansas, and the homesteaders resenting the trespass of these cattle, shot many of them and especially the young buffalo, which Wilcox prized highly. One morning in the winter of 1871 and 1872, a couple of dead buffalo were found by Wilcox's men in the timber on Shriver's land, the killing of which Mr. Shriver was in no way responsible. Wilcox got his shot gun, saddled up Blackbird, the mare he rode out of Texas at the beginning of the war, pursued by a mob because he was an outspoken Union man, and rode over to where Shriver was loading a wagon with hay from the stack, pulled the gun down on him and said: "Shriver, you killed my buffalo, and I am going to kill you." With a mental quickness and diplomacy, Shriver replied: "All right, Mr. Wilcox, but what good would that do? It would not give life to your buffalo and would cause your family lots of trouble." Wilcox hesitated a while and then said: "I will let you go this time," turned and rode off. Out of this incident grew a feud that more or less embroiled the entire neighborhood for the next ten years, resulting in much vexatious and petty litigation.

Happily, however, one day they met on the road and with a word or two said, "Let bygones be bygones," and thereafter both stood as pillars for peace and neighborhood good will until their end, Mr. Wilcox being the first to go, passing away in August, 1888.

Mr. Shriver took great interest in the educational affairs of the community, and largely through his efforts District No. 73 was formed and the school house built in 1872, being for many years the largest and best built school house in northern Butler, and doing yeoman and efficient service to this day. Mr. Shriver was a very successful farmer, stockman and feeder, and in 1883 moved to Peabody and for many years was general live stock agent for the Rock Island Railroad Company in Kansas, and also served as councilman and mayor of the city of Peabody. The gentle spirit of the wife of his early manhood took its flight in June, 1886. What a noble woman and mother she was. No home in the neighborhood but had been the recipient of her kindly ministrations, and of such mothers has been molded the stalwart and incomparable character of Kansans. Some years later he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Moore, of Kansas City, Missouri, who survives him.

A strong, rugged character, great mentality, quick perception, born to rule and to fight, with his face to the front he sank to rest within a few minutes of the first premonition, and every day of his life from that July day in 1871, has left its impress upon the annals of the community where he lived. It is with pleasure that I recall his cheerful greeting and pleasant smile, with the hope that he has that peace which passeth understanding.

#### STORY OF EARLY DAYS.

By the late Mrs. Amos Adams.

Under the caption, "A Happy Early Comer," Mrs. Adams wrote an article which appeared in the Woman's Edition of the "Times," March 13, 1896, in which she described some of the experiences of early days in Butler county. This edition was compiled by the late Alvah Sheldon, a life-long friend and admirer of Mr. and Mrs. Adams. The article follows:

Ed. "Times:" Mr. Adams and myself came to Kansas in October, 1866, and took a homestead at the confluence of Diamond creek and the Whitewater river. Here we have lived continuously ever since—a long time in one place. We made the journey to Kansas in a "covered wagon" and not without hardship. Mr. Adams had just returned from his service in the Union army the spring before and his army life induced a love of adventure which probably turned his hopes westward; so we came thither.

We were both young and full of hope and our dream was of a home, surrounded by the comforts and conveniences of life. Our dream, I am

glad to say, has been realized, even in its coloring. Out of Kansas soil and under the beneficence of Kansas sky we have builded such a home ad in it we are happy.

Our oldest child, now living, was not born until seven years after we landed on the Whitewater. Into that seven years are crowded my experiences with pioneer life. It was a period of hardships, privations and dangers, not without even the sweetest pleasures.

Our first home was a rude log cabin, hurriedly built, without any traces of skill or art. During the rainy season there were only two dry places under the roof—under the bed and the table! Many a night of the sweetest slumber was passed under the bed instead of on it. I recall one night in particular. We were entertaining a cow boy. The rain was pouring in through the defective roof. Raising the table leaves, Mr. Adams and the cow-boy found shelter there, while my couch was laid under the bed among the trunks and boxes containing our clothing. No clothing was removed and Mr. Adams had gone to bed with an egg in his coat pocket which he had found in the evening while doing the chores. When he arose in the morning, strange to say, the egg was not broken. At this discovery the cowboy's laughter became ungovernable.

During this time my household duties were few and simple and quickly performed. My chief occupation was herding cattle in company with Mr. Adams. We soon had a large number of cattle which ran at large, grazing all over Northwest Butler county. I soon learned to use the side saddle and never had any hesitancy about mounting the wildest Texas broncho. I have battled in rain with many a stampede and rounded up the herd in a snow storm. Colored in memory, they seem happier days than they really were.

In the spring of 1868, I became a school teacher. I passed the examination under Dr. Kellogg, then county superintendent, and taught a three months' term in district No. 9. It was the first term of school ever taught there and was all the school teaching I ever cared to do. My wages were \$15 per month. Among my immediate successors was C. R. Noe, now editor of the Leon "Indicator" and Regent of the State Agricultural College.

The sparsely settled condition of the county made visiting difficult. Our neighbors were few up to 1870, when immigration began to come in. Prior to that time we thought nothing of going ten or twelve miles on a visit. One time, I remember, we started for West Branch, a distance of ten miles, to visit neighbors. The start was made right away after dinner. The day was very dark. A dense fog hung over the hills and prairie and settled in the valley. It was impossible to see any great distance and the only roads were cattle trails. Striking out over the prairies west of Whitewater, we took a southwesterly course and supposed we were keeping it. Up hill, down hill, over ridges, through ravines of blue stem grass, taller than the corn now grows, and across the prairie we pursued the journey in a gallop, but no West Branch and no

cabins. Nothing but fog, blue stem and prairie. We soon knew we were lost but went ahead. The fog partially clearing away we rode up just at sun down to the hills west of the Whitewater, opposite to and not a mile from our own cabin. Just where we had been we shall never know, but we had ridden in a gallop for six hours and the ponies were jaded. We had evidently made a great circuit over the broad prairies to the northwest. Not discouraged we started anew and reached our neighbors after dark.

One of the sensations of pioneer life was the "Indian scares." Reports of Indians on the war path were frequently brought in and caused great consternation. Fire arms were abundant in every cabin. The Indian was the great terror of the plains, but the fear in which he was held proved groundless in every instance. No depredations were ever committed in these parts after we came, and none of a very serious nature that I ever heard of before. The Indian's chief offense against his white brother was the stealing of ponies. During the Indian scare of 1868, most of the people congregated in El Dorado and prepared for a united resistance. Not wishing to abandon our cattle we remained and, joined by a neighbor, fortified the cabin, cleaned, polished and loaded all the fire-arms and were determined to make the Upper Whitewater famous for a historic battle with the Red Man. A few Indians passed through, but were peaceable.

My experience is that the Indian is highly appreciative of kindness. When a friend he is usually a true friend. His treachery was not so natural as it was necessary. The law of self-preservation drove him to it. The injustice of the grasping white man pushed him to desperation and made treachery his resort. One of our neighbors, whose name I have seen in print, was an Indian. He had settled with his family at the junction of Four Mile and the Whitewater, about five miles south of here, and was trying to take on some of the ways of civilization. He visited us frequently, and would bring us game that he had killed. Hunting was his chief occupation, although he farmed a little, kept ponies, had dogs and played the "fiddle." His name was "Shawnee Jim." He was kind, honest and truthful. He was a lover of justice, a believer in peace, and had an eye for the beautiful. He was grateful and would repay the slightest act of kindness two-fold. He had learned to speak a little broken English and liked to visit with us and talk about God and the many wonderful things that the white man could do. He would ask about various articles in the house and how they were made. When told he would shake his head thoughtfully, sigh for his own benighted race, and say: "Oh! white man, he know heap." There was a store above us on the Whitewater where "Jim" did his trading. When he first came, instead of following the road which passed our cabin, he would go around through the timber on his way to the store. When asked why he did this, he said it was because he was afraid of scaring "white man's squaw." When assured that I was not afraid of him and would treat

good Indians kindly, he would come to the house, and soon became our fast friend. In his transactions at the store he was frequently cheated and always knew it. He had a system of measures of his own and his method of calculation was astonishingly accurate. When he failed to receive full weight, he could always discover it on his return home. He often complained to us of the injustice done him and would shake his head and apparently get consolation by looking up to Heaven and saying, "White man's God know it."

In 1868 he moved to the territory. The ruins of his little cabin may yet be seen. Although an Indian, born in a wigwam, cradled in a deer skin and schooled in the ways of his nature, a Christian spirit, a kindness, gentleness, honesty and love of justice that would do a credit to a white Christian, were his.

In the years that we have lived in Kansas we have never had a desire to abandon our adopted State. The hardships undergone in pioneer life makes the State all the dearer to us. I love the State and its history, its soil and sky and sunshine, its prairies and their products. All my children are Kansans and I have taught them to love their native and my adopted State, to know its history and admire its distinguished sons. My four daughters are proud of their Kansas birthplace and birthright, and my son will always have the courage, I sincerely hope, to defend the fair name of the "Sunflower State."

#### PIONEER DAYS.

By W. H. Douglass.

In January, 1870, we—my wife and three-months' old baby boy—left the old home in Williamson, Wayne county, New York, where we were born and reared, to join my brother, Joseph, in Southern Butler county, Kansas, on the Walnut river, where he had settled in 1868 and started the town of Douglass. We were unloaded at Kansas City on a platform depot, transferred to the A. T. & S. F. R. R., which was then building westward, and were landed at Burlingame, its terminus at that time. In our company was young Alfred Pratt and his girl wife, all going west to find the gold at the end of the rainbow.

At Burlingame we engaged a man with a little team of mules—jack-rabbits we called them—and a covered wagon to take us to our destination. On the route we saw but few houses, a great waste of blackened prairie with once in a while brush and light scraggy timber, scattered along a few small streams. Passing through the then small hamlet of Emporia, over the Cottonwood, up the bluffs and hills on the south, then to yeamore Springs with one shack for a town, and we were on the head waters of the Walnut river and the soil of Butler county. Convoysed by a blizzard, with fine snow drifting into every crevice, still on we traveled down to the city of Chelsea, on and still on until we reached El

Dorado, the capital of Butler county with its one stone hotel and a few box buildings. Then on down the Walnut Valley with its fine bottom land and timber to the city of Augusta, at the junction of the Whitewater and Walnut rivers. A few small box buildings made up this new city. On again we went across the river, up over the bluff and on down the beautiful valley till we reached the Cease Ridge, when we saw before us what appeared to be a little huddle of buildings on a hill, and were told it was the wonderful city of Douglass. Still on we went, very cheerfully now, and were soon landed, on the fifth of February, 1870, at our brother Joe's little home, were all taken in, warmed and fed.

We were pleased with the beautiful town site, though it had only a few buildings mostly of the box form, a hotel run by Henry Lamb and wife, and a store or two. We were cordially welcomed by the settlers, among them the Longs, Stanleys, Kirkpatrick, Prindle, Olmstead, Shaff, Graves, and many others.

In a short time we dug a little cellar on the claim close to the town—regardless of the threats and revolvers of claim jumpers—built over it a shack 12x16, of native lumber of all thicknesses and widths and moved in with cracker boxes for chairs, rough boards for a table, a home made bedstead, tick filled with prairie hay to sleep on, and love for dessert. Now we are proud citizens of Butler county, Kansas, for we had spent four of the best years of our life in the great struggle that resulted in Kansas being made a free State.

New people came daily, in covered wagons, with their few goods, mother, father and children, coming from every direction and almost all States; all looking for a home. Soon came my wife's sisters with their families—the Algers—my sister and her husband, Dr. W. M. Lamb, Chester Lamb, Neil Wilkie, A. J. Uhl, Dewit Blood, and so many that I've not room to mention names, but all were full of ambition and determination to make of Butler county a model county and home.

In all directions you could see the plows turning the sod, cabins being built, gardens made and corn planted as the sod was turned. Everything was instinct with life, the prairie covered with its verdure of green and blossoming with flowers.

Like all new countries the citizens were mostly from different localities and States, consequently were strangers to each other in name, as well as in habits and customs, therefore the forming of social intimacies was slow. Into our community at this time appeared the lawless element that acted upon the theory of the right of possession. One by one and sometimes, two by two, the horses of the settlers were taken by night, leaving the owner with nothing with which to put in and tend his crop. In most instances this took their all and leaving them destitute and desolate. Slowly the people began to get nearer together until at last they merged into a bond of unity and drove from their midst those who had been foraging on their property. It was over eight years after this before a horse was stolen in that section of the country.

The summer of 1871 had passed to its close and fall was with us, when my loved brother Joseph, who in company with Mr. Kirkpatrick, while arresting a thief, was shot and after four days of intense suffering, died. He loved the country and town, using all his endeavors for what he thought was for its upbuilding and at last gave it his life. The murderer escaped but was captured by the citizens, who in harmony with my brother's dying request, saw that no harm came to him except such as due process of law should prescribe, thus showing that the people of Douglass and vicinity were law-abiding when law could be enforced.

Time passed fast. The cities of Douglass, Augusta and El Dorado were rapidly growing. Good buildings and school houses were erected. The country was fast becoming settled. Cabins being built and crops growing in all directions. All felt happy and prosperous. Party lines in politics were not known. All met together and elected or appointed the ones to serve as township and county officers, regardless of whether he wore the Grey or the Blue, whether he had been a Whig, Democrat, Know-nothing or Republican. Almost everyone felt happy and enjoyed their homes.

The summer of 1874 gave us promise of good crops. Many had— for that time—large crops of wheat and corn which promised a good yield. The corn was in the thick dough or partly glazed, when on a beautiful, sunshiny day, a vast cloud appeared in the northwest, which almost instantly deposited its hordes of millions upon millions of grasshoppers. They cleared the cornfields, wheat in the field or shock and every green thing, even eating harness leather, making a clean sweep of all things open to their attack. Through all this disaster the majority of those brave citizens looked boldly at the trials confronting them in the coming winter, put their shoulders to the wheel, drew their belts tighter and went to work, to, in some way, procure food and clothing for the wife and little ones, believing in the justice and love of the Great Creator and His promise to care for His children.

Another season came and went with good crops and the summer of 1876 came with more good crops, large fields for wheat had been prepared and many sown and up, when on August 31, another cloud of grasshoppers deluged us, destroying all crops and remaining, thereby preventing seeding again till late fall, but when the spring opened all grasshoppers died so the people were not again despoiled by them.

Very little now transpired, but rapid growth and development of the country and county seat contests which often brought out humorous incidents. During the first years the A. T. & S. F. R. R. had extended its road on west through Florence and its officers affirmed to build a branch to El Dorado for a certain bonus, but the people of the county rejected the proposition because it was to stop temporarily at El Dorado, thus giving it an advantage. Then the road accepted a much larger bonus from Wichita and built down from Newton, thereby giving Wich-

ita and Sedgwick county the advantage of all railroad immigration—which was immense—up to the time the road was built from Florence down. This action built a city at Wichita and peopled that county with many well-to-do farmers, while we of the best county were comparatively standing still. This is the only instance that I recall where the people of the county worked against its interest. I wish I had the time and space to tell of the many noble instances of unselfish work for the good and upbuilding of the county that come to my memory, but I have not, for it would include nearly all of the then inhabitants.

The months and years moved rapidly on like a panorama. Cowley county on the south was opened for settlement. The new city of Winfield was building and many of the ceaseless tide of covered wagons, coming down the Walnut with their loads of goods and humanity, passed on down the river to the new El Dorado.

Still our county was marching on. New towns had budded and blossomed in many localities, substantial buildings were being erected and general prosperity enjoyed. In the fall of 1879 the people conferred on me the honor of electing me sheriff of the county and I assumed its duties on January 12, 1880, holding the office until January, 1884. As I traveled the many miles that covered the territory of this great county and viewed its good, commodious buildings and vast improvements, it seemed almost impossible that this could be the same blackened, burned-over waste that we came over only ten years previous, and that these people now inhabiting these cities and broad prairies could have come here, borne the burdens and wrought these great changes in the ten years that, as I looked back over them, seemed but yesterday. It was brought home to me that this could only have been accomplished by the aid and sanction of Him who giveth and taketh the life, the great "I am."

Events transpired rapidly during these passing years. The Santa Fe R. R. built its road from Florence down through the county to Douglass. The Frisco R. R. built through Augusta to Wichita and the Mo. Pac. built through El Dorado to Wichita, both from the east, thereby giving the county competing as well as connecting lines. All things moved rapidly now. Enterprises seemed to spring up in a night. New people appeared on the streets of our cities every day, and how proud the "Old Guard" felt who had borne the burden and struggle of the strife. Among them I can see Gen'l Ellet, Senator Murdock, Dr. White, Dr. Gordon, Dr. McKenzie, C. N. James, Betts, Frazier, Brown, and oh, so many more in town and country who had helped fight and win the battle. But now a new feature confronted us; the new blood of the age was coming to the front, taking up their share of the burdens, infusing new life and new methods into the strife. Among them appeared Stratford, Gardner, Kramer, Mooney, Leydig, Alger and many more.

But now I hear that old Butler county has fully come to its own and its fair surface is dotted over with oil and gas wells, and that the children



of the "new blood" are grasping the reins of State. It is time, for as I look about for the "Old Guard" I see none. They have all passed over the river and I am left alone. But Butler county has come through the trial triumphant, the banner county of the banner State of this great Union, the dominant nation of the world.

#### A PIONEER OF 1868.

Forty-eight years ago John S. Friend bought 160 acres of land on the Walnut river one mile east of town. John Jones was the pioneer that sold it to Mr. Friend. The log cabin built in 1851 in which Mr. Jones lived, and in which Mr. Friend lived for twenty-one years afterwards, is still standing and could be fixed up comfortably yet with a little work. It is of hewn logs and was much better constructed than most of the early cabins. It has a window in the loft upstairs. Some style for that day. It stands just north of his present residence. Mr. Friend had just come from Travis county, Texas, where he went in 1851 from Ohio, his native State. He had followed the cattle business there.

Mr. Friend married Tennessee Dancer in 1856. They had two children, Lee Temple, a son, and Florence, now Mrs. Florence Fisher, living in California. Mrs. Friend died in 1860 and in 1866 he married Matilda Jones, of Llano, Texas. Two years later when he was away from home the Kiowa and Comanche Indians made a raid on the Friend home and killed and scalped three of the women and two children. Mrs. Friend was also shot and scalped but survived the tragedy. Lee Temple, aged 8, and a little girl belonging to one of the neighbors were carried into captivity. The girl was rescued a year later and Lee Temple, Mr. Friend's son, five years afterwards. He lived but a year and a half after returning home.

Mr. Friend has had a claim of \$7,500.00 against the Government for the past forty-four years but has never received his money.

March 1, 1889, Mr. Friend was appointed manager of the county farm, a position to be held for five years. He went to California in 1907, remaining for over six years, and in 1914 returned to El Dorado. Now he is back on the farm where he started in 1868. His wife died several years ago and his two daughters, Alice and Carrie, are with him. He will be eighty years old March 19 and he says he is going to fix things up around the place as the buildings are in bad repair. He has fitted up a carpenter shop in the cabin and started at his job. His present residence was built in 1894. The farm is one of the richest along the Walnut Valley.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF JERRY CONNOR.

In the summer of 1859, says Jerry Connor, there was to be a Republican convention held at Emporia in which all these southwestern counties were entitled to representation. It was deemed advisable that the Walnut valley be represented there, but the question was, who would be a suitable person who could be induced to make the trip, as the journey was a tedious one. It had to be made either horse-back or with oxen as there was not a horse team at that time in the valley. Finally Judge J. C. Lambdin solved the problem. I was alone in my cabin, had retired for the night to my buffalo robe on the floor, when I heard the sound of horses' feet and a loud knocking. On reaching the door, which was open, there in the summer moonlight, sitting on their horses, were Judge Lambdin and Dr. J. C. Weibley. The judge apologized for the disturbance and stated that the doctor was going to start for Emporia for provisions in the morning and would act as delegate to the convention and it was important that he go properly accredited. Now the doctor was from Virginia and the most rabid pro-slavery man in the whole settlement, and I said in a mild way that the doctor was no Republican. "We've fixed that," said the judge, "they don't know him up there and he agrees to be a Republican for this trip!" So the meeting was organized, Connor (rather scantily clad), chairman, Weibley, secretary, and Lambdin the body of the convention. The doctor was unanimously elected and received his credentials, and made a ringing Republican speech in the Emporia convention—in fact, was the hero of the occasion—but he spoiled it all before he left.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

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### REMINISCENCES, CONTINUED.

MEAD'S RANCH—RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY TIMES—AN INDIAN SCARE—  
EARLY SCHOOLS IN EL DORADO—A TORNADO—WING IN THE SEVENTIES.

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#### MEAD'S RANCH.

By J. R. Mead, Wichita, Kansas.

My acquaintance with Butler county dates only from the spring of 1863—a short time when I consider that people of some intelligence resided along your rivers hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years ago, as I have evidence, but who unfortunately left no history—no one told their history.

I found a few white people when I came—perhaps 150, but of those Early settlers how few remain! The first I met were typical of the frontier. They were encamped in the timber at Sycamore Springs; Dave Ballou, a Cherokee, with his three wives and followers, also Dick Pratt and some companions, rigged out in all the splendors of an Indian-made buckskin suit, broad brimmed hat decorated with gay ribbons, a pair of revolvers in fringed and elaborate scabbards, and the usual complement of spurs, quirt, etc. Dick was a merry free lance, handsome, picturesque, gay, cheeks as rosy as a girl's, his glossy black hair hanging in ringlets on his shoulders, in appearance a modern Dick Turpin and Lothario combined. Further down the Walnut we met another type and kind in the persons of Judge J. C. Lambdin and George I. Donaldson and their refined and hospitable families, who had brought to the wilderness the culture and refinement of the East. Near by two or three buildings were called Chelsea, which was the county seat. Here I met Mart Vaught, Dr. Lewellen, Henry Martin, the Bemis family, the politics talker—Judge Wm. Harrison—T. W. Satchell, Mr. Jones, "Whiskey" Stewart and D. L. McCabe, whose hospitality was only limited by their means, which was true of all the people I met in the county. The African was much in evidence also—the Gaskins family just above El Dorado.

Still following the trail south, I made camp at old El Dorado. The present city was then an unclaimed prairie. Here on the Walnut river

was the crossing of the great "California Trail;" also the Osage trail, to their hunting grounds on the Arkansas. And here Stine & Dunlap, famous Indian traders, kept a small store. Some rented buildings showed attempt at town building, but were deserted on account of the war of the rebellion to the South, and savage tribes to the West. One or two families lived at the crossing near by. Jerry Connor had a house and claim; also Harvey Young, and some others I have forgotten. Lieutenant Matthew Cowley and Mr. Johnson were living on the West Branch.

As my object was to hunt big game and engage in the fur trade for sport and profit, I followed the Osage trail west to the Whitewater, the last settlement this side of New Mexico. Finding a lovely spot by a big spring with abundant timber near, I pitched my camp to stay. I bought out J. C. Chandler's buildings and improvements, put up other buildings, brought my wife and baby boy, put in a stock of goods for my neighbors, my hunters, and the Indians, who soon came about in hundreds. There were a few settlers on Whitewater at that time. William Vann, Martin Huller, Dan Cupp, who helped build my house; Anthony Davis, "Old Man Gillian;" and at Plum Grove, like an oasis in the desert, lived Joseph Adams and his excellent family. Soon came Samuel C. Fulton, Mrs. Lawton and her son, Jack, and others. As soon as I was settled I made a hunt on the Arkansas to show the rather discouraged settlers what could be done in that line. I took two inexperienced men with two teams and in three weeks was back with 330 buffalo hides, 3500 pounds of buffalo tallow, and some elk, antelope, etc., and fooled away several days with an alleged hunter named Buckner, who went in the company to get a load of meat and show me how to kill buffalo. I loaded him up and sent him home. Soon I had half the men in the county hunting or trading. These I outfitted and supplied their families while they were gone. None of them failed to make returns; people were honest in those days, including our Red Brother. Of the Indians, one winter I obtained 3,000 Buffalo robes.

The Government sent Agent Major Milo Gookins to look after the various Indian bands, and he established his agency at my place. We had a school in a long building on the hill where Towanda is built, and Father Stansbury preached once a month at my house, simon pure gospel without price or creed.

Life had its tragedies then, as now. Of those employed by me, George Adams died from exposure in the icy waters of the Arkansas. Jack Lawton was shot by an outlaw at the mouth of the Arkansas. Sam Carter died of cholera at my house.

At my home and trading post, widely known as "Mead's Ranch," were born to me two daughters and a son, and there, passed to her long rest, my beloved wife, whose life was full of love and kindness.

The seven years I lived in Butler county, from 1863 to 1869, were full of activity and success with much of joy and sorrow. Butler coun-

ty in those years was as nature made it, beautiful to the eye, green prairies, gushing springs, stately timber, clear flowing streams; birds and fish abounded and nearby were elk, deer, antelope and buffalo innumerable, free to all for the taking.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY TIMES.

By D. M. Elder.

I have been asked to give my recollections of early life in Butler county.

Be it remembered that Butler county as a farming community dates from 1870. Previous to that year the population was sparse. The frontiersmen, hunters, trappers, Indian traders, etc., date back to 1860 and a very few a few years beyond, but the bulk of the homesteaders came in 1870.

Uncle Joe Adams, who came before 1860, lived in 1870 on section 6, in what is now Plum Grove township; Daniel Stine, at the junction of Walnut and Whitewater rivers; an Indian trader, J. R. Mead, at Towanda; J. C. Lambdin at Chelsea; James Gillian and Kige Bemis, who should be classed as frontiersmen. Then came the hunters, adventurers, and men who were dodging the sheriffs in other States. Part of these men came in 1860 and some before.

The bulk of the farmers and homemakers came in 1870. It must be remembered that the homesteaders settled on the two western tiers of townships and north of the Osage diminished reserve, the north line of which is about four miles south of El Dorado. This was given up by the Osage tribe in 1870. That winter witnessed their breaking camp from their village north of Douglass. In the summer of 1870 Northeast Butler, east of the west line of Lincoln and El Dorado townships, and North Osage lands had been opened for public entry and was known and deeded as Speculators' Land, including what was known as Peck, and afterwards Potwin Land, also Lawrence Land, both of which were known as Railroad Land. This was given by the United States to the State for educational purposes but in reality the dishonest legislators gave it to the railroad promoters. This shows why the southern part of the county was more thickly settled. The Osage land was sold to settlers for \$1.25 per acre.

The first town in Kansas at which I stopped to look was Abilene, then a Texas cow town. I was told by the cattlemen that the White-water country was the best in Kansas, which so impressed me as to cause me to come to see. The first person I became acquainted with after arriving was C. V. Cain, our Charley, who was building the best house in Northwest Butler on section 16 in Plum Grove township, and boarding with Bob Dearman in the house so long occupied by William I. Joseph. I boarded there until I located land and I never regretted my first acquaintance.

Homesteads were plenty and easy to get for the first year. I recollect I could have located a homestead on the town site of either Wichita, Newton or McPherson. I remember of picketing my pony on Main street of Wichita and I thought it too sandy. Emporia was the nearest railroad town—sixty miles distant. My first trip after moving in was for mower and rake and lumber for a shack.

Horace Wilcox, who lived with his family in a log cabin about eighteen by twenty feet, with one small window and one door and nature's floor, was the principal cattle man. He had perhaps 200 Texas cattle. Henry Cornstock was next in importance with perhaps thirty head. Stark Spence had about twenty head. He lived in a cabin which also had nature's floor but it was very fashionable with the earliest settlers. Dugouts and sod houses were not so common here as farther west. Cattle wintered largely on open range, which was then thirty miles west. Buffalo were found occasionally as they would stray into the herds of cattle. Hunters went out in the winter and filled their wagons with buffalo meat and a few hides. John and Andy Smith and Sam Crow often found deer and antelope to supply the larder south of Burns.

It was a common saying for years that the best house in any school district was the school house, which was largely true. A large per cent. of the population were ex-soldiers, a small number of whom were "Confeds." I don't recall any serious disagreements. We treated the "Johnnies" cordially. They were here from almost every State in the Union and many European nations. A big influx of Russian Menonites came in the early seventies. They brought their farming tools and equipment with them. Their thrashing machines didn't look much like ours and I never saw one in use after being shipped so far. They learned their lessons and became good citizens. Here the "Johnnie" forgot he was a southerner and became a real American. We all imbibed the ideas of the others and became possessed of the knowledge of all, hence the great progress. The early settlers were temperate as a class, which placed Kansas in the lead. The other States are following her example. The Prohibition amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1880.

In recalling those early days we think the teachers are worthy of notice, a few of whom are still with us. John Austin, our late city engineer, taught several terms before taking up his work as treasurer, surveyor, etc. Charles Page, now deceased, also taught school grasshopper year. Molly Burris, George Dafron (now deceased); Lou Shriver, now Mrs. S. R. Clifford; Fanny Hull Wilson; Alice Stevenson Gray; Florence Stearns, now wife of Dare Wait; Ada Newburry, later Mrs. Frank Ewing, deceased; Esther Newburry, now Mrs. George Tolle; Emma Lambing, now Mrs. James Wilson; Miss Hattie Weeks; John Shelden; Jos. Morton, William Price, deceased; Nell Hawley; Miss Lamb, and Nettie Maynard were all teachers in those early days. The writer taught the "Brown school" in Clifford township in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Alvah Shelden also taught school, as did Mrs. John Riley Riley

was later a newspaper man and went to Arkansas. Old Aunt Jane Wentworth, who died in a fire caused by herself, is said to have taught school. Mrs. Hunt taught the Sutton Branch school and often walked out from El Dorado in the mornings and returned in the evenings. Prof. Shively and John Blevins taught and were county superintendents. Alvah Sheldon was also superintendent. The Brown sisters, Mrs. J. K. Nelson, Mrs. Austin Brumback, Miss Lillie Brown, and Ida Brown; W. H. Litson, J. C. Elliot, Mrs. Clara Brumback; Emma Harvey, Priscilla McGuinn; Lavella Rector, Alfred Synder, Flora Donaldson, O. E. Olin and Celia Boessma were all successful teachers. A report of the teachers institute clipped from the Walnut "Times" of 1877 gave the attendance as eighty-two. The teacher's certificate issued in those early days gives subjects taught similiar to those now required. Some of the embryo lawyers of the late 1870's taught school, among whom were Ed. Stratford, V. P. Mooney, Austin and Ed Brumback, Freemont Leidy and others.

Bachelors constituted nearly a third of the homesteaders, among whom were the Neiman boys, E. B. Brainard, Bert Magill, James Shoots, D. M. Elder, James Morton, Mart Ashenfelter, John and Sam Austin, and numerous others. Marriageable girls and widows were few in the early seventies.

Preaching and preachers were scarce but Sabbath schools were soon organized and many of them would compare favorably with the present schools. Such a school was organized in the school house near John Wentworth's and continued for five years without missing a Sabbath. Jacob Holderman was the first active worker, but he soon died and I have no doubt went to Abraham's bosom, for he was a worthy man. D. M. Elder and Joseph Morton took up the work he started. Lizzie Randall (Mrs. Will Randall), a sister of Charles and William Cain, furnished the music for public meetings and Sunday school in the Northwest part of the county, and occasionally went as far as Augusta.

The early settlers were generally law-abiding and many God-fearing people. The first year, 1870, we heard of horse and cattle thieves, but after the Regulators near Douglass took action the business became unpopular and has since remained so.

Butler county was without railroad facilities until 1877—although the A. T. & S. F. Railway was built as far west as Newton in 1871. It was a cattle town with dance halls and saloons. A graveyard was soon established for the burial of fellows who "died with their boots on." Wichita soon took its place as a cattle point and Dodge City also became prominent. This part of the country was then freed of that class of citizens, which included the "quick on trigger marshal" and Wild Bill and others of that kind.

Preachers were scarce. Occasionally a "God-made preacher" came forward. I remember one in particular whom I shall call "Old Yank." Old Yank felt called upon to deliver his message to the sinner and after

some talk he sent word that he would preach at Lone Star. As a result about fifteen came to hear him. He arose very meekly and announced his text but became stage-struck and after stammering awhile he said: "I am no preacher of the Gospel" (accent on the last syllable), and after repeating that remark three times we out of sympathy for him told him we understood and the old fellow sat down in some agony. This ended his ministerial career.

Another middle-aged man who thought himself well-gifted used to hold forth when asked. He had a well-prepared sermon in three heads, which was like the song "Our Old Cow—She Crossed the Road" that had three verses which were all alike. The opening paragraph was: "Oh, yes, my beloved brethren." He would give his entire sermon in a very high key and for variation would repeat in a lower key and again in a still lower key and so continue until he had his subject driven home. I was present one night at a protracted meeting when he was asked to preach. I wouldn't have been there if I had know he was to talk. I had said in the presence of Mrs. Thomas Wallace that his repetitions made me think of a little dog chasing his tail. While I was enduring it with all fortitude possible my eyes met Mrs. Wallace's. She was looking at me with an expression that indicated what she was thinking and laughed aloud—the first time I ever laughed out in meeting, which mortified me to such an extent that I left immediately. I never knew of his preaching again and it may have been that my rudeness wrecked his career.

Another old gentleman who had raised a good crop of potatoes in 1874 was at a sale in the early spring of 1875, and was asked by a man who knew he had them and wanted some to plant, if he would sell some. The old gentleman, fearing that if he sold them he would be prevented from receiving aid, replied: "No, sir, I haven't nary tater to spare," and this fear of spoiling his chances of drawing aid caused him to put them in the loft, which not being strong, gave way one night and came near killing him and an old maid daughter.

Another story used to be told of a preacher who went East to solicit aid. He succeeded in getting \$10 to aid some struggling church, and when he got back he reported the gift and then announced that as they were needy he would preach it out to them in the school house, which was judicious and well considered.

### AN INDIAN SCARE.

By Mrs. M. A. Avery.

Thinking perhaps I could contribute a few reminiscences of the early pioneer days in northwest Butler, I will relate a few incidents in connection with the Indian scare:

My husband and myself and our three-year-old boy, Ulysses Sher-



man, settled in Clifford township in April, 1868. Unloading our goods in the timber near the creek until four posts were driven into the ground, a few thin boards that we had brought in the bottom of the wagon were laid over the top as a protection from rain. Carpets and quilts were hung around three sides, while the wagon box with bows and cover on filled the fourth side and provided us with a sleeping apartment. Our stove, chairs, table, etc., were put inside and we were "at home" to any who called.

In a month's time we had a garden planted and a little stone cabin erected on the hill where the present dwelling stands. Although the stone building was small and rudely built it was home and we were monarchs of all we surveyed. Our nearest neighbor was Dr. I. V. Davis and his brother, William, (both bachelors), three and one-half miles northwest of us. Thomas H. Ferrier and family lived directly west about the same distance. John Wentworth and his father-in-law, Joseph Adams, lived five miles south; while to the north and east it was eighteen miles to the nearest house.

Imagine what our feelings were when one afternoon in the last of May or the first of June (I have forgotten the exact date) a boy came riding up in great haste, crying out, "Everybody is going to El Dorado to try and protect their families. The Indians are expected every minute to kill settlers and drive off stock." Although feeling that it could not be true we thought "discretion the better part of valor" and hurriedly throwing into the wagon what eatables were handy, some bedding, a gun and our saddles in case we should be pressed and have to abandon our wagon and escape on horse-back, we drove rapidly down the stream until we joined the families of T. L. Ferrier, J. Carns, Jacob Green and James Jones, who had all been warned in the same way of the danger. As we formed in a procession with pale-faced women and frightened children our thought went back to when, as children, we had read of the Indian raids in eastern states in their early settlements and we imagined that the massacre would soon begin and every eye was busy watching for the approach of the dusky foe. Arriving at El Dorado we were all welcomed to a long, low new building occupied by William Show and family and located somewhere near where the postoffice now stands. All the old guns brought in by the settlers were stacked in the middle of the room and looked very war-like as they ranged from the old-fashioned squirrel gun to the Springfield rifle.

At night the beds were spread all over the floor and were occupied by the women and children, while some of the men stood guard and tried to devise ways and means for killing the Indians if they did put in an appearance. As we women learned afterwards there were only about a dozen loads of ammunition in the town, but morning dawned at last and we began to breathe freer, and as the day wore on and we were still unmolested we could begin to see the humorous side of the big scare. One old lady in the hurry of getting ready to leave home had been so

solicitous for the comfort and cleanliness of her family that she insisted on loading in a keg of soft soap and after getting several miles from home discovered that she had forgotten her shoes and stockings and was wearing a child's hood upon her head with the summer sunshine pouring down upon her.

My husband and Mr. Carns returned to the homesteads to see if there were any signs of trouble, but the humble homes were unmolested and the few cattle and horses were grazing peacefully on the hills. However, we tarried one more night at El Dorado and then returned to our homes. Later on it was learned that the Cheyenne Indians had passed north of us near Marion, Marion county, going to Council Grove to fight the Kaws who were stationed near there. Although they helped themselves to everything they wanted in the line of eatables, etc., no lives were taken, but many women and children had an experience that will long be remembered.

Many people left the country for good while those few who had the courage and perseverance necessary to battle with the hardships and privations incident to opening up a new country are now among our most substantial citizens. Although they have since fought grasshoppers, drouths and other pestilences they are still standing up for Kansas.

#### EARLY SCHOOLS IN EL DORADO.

By the Late Dr. E. Cowles.

I made my first visit to Butler county in 1868. El Dorado at that time had only rough buildings of native lumber, nailed up and down as a barn and nothing inside over the studding. I filed on eighty acres of land, the Mendenhall property west of the city, bought a lot in town and proceeded to build a house. On July 30, 1868, I taught my first school and the first school taught in El Dorado, a three-month term. The school room was situated on the east side of South Main street and near its intersection of Second avenue. It was illy fitted for the purpose compared with what I had been used to in New England. During the following years of 1868 and 1870, I taught a number of successive terms; my second being in a room on the west side of Main street, nearly opposite the site of the first. The next school term was begun by T. R. Wilson, but being one of the school board, he engaged me to finish the last half of the term, soon after, and upon the completion of the first school building erected on the town site—built of stone on the southwest corner of First avenue and Washington street. This building with (then) modern desks and improvements was a very acceptable place for a good school. Here public meetings were held, as houses for such were few. Here, too, a union Sabbath school was organized under my supervision.

During this period of service in the school room the practice of

medicine had been laid aside. During the succeeding three years the demands in practice occupied most of my time. The public schools of the county were demanding new and increased interests, such as the formation of new districts, the erection of school houses and the other needful work incident to a rapidly increasing population.

#### A TORNADO.

By Mrs. B. F. Adams, in 1895.

The people of the Eastern States have an idea that Kansas is the home of the cyclone and the hurricane. We once combatted their errors, but have long since quit it as unprofitable. This is no longer a pioneer land. The fact is that Kansas is no more subject to such disturbances of the atmosphere than other States and not so much as many. When they do come they are usually "twisters," i. e., cyclones. Here is one that was quite general in the county, resulting in the loss of several lives and the wrecking of much property, especially the lightly built "claim" houses of those days. This was in the nature of a tornado. A straight blow from the northwest. The late Mrs. B. F. Adams told the story of its work of devastation: How vividly the picture is photographed on the tablets of memory of all who were residents of El Dorado at the close of that eventful day, June 16, 1871. At this time we see little but a sad picture to present, which shows us fully "there is a time to laugh and a time to weep." The day had been intensely hot and as the sun had nearly completed his round, a cloud commenced forming in the northwest. As I lay in my bed with my new-born son, Spencer, south of town (now the F. M. Myers estate) my position was such that I had full view of the cloud from its inception that forboded ill to the town. Its appearance really seemed indescribable; apparently a great wall of inky blackness, from which came the vivid electrical flashes, grand in one sense, yet behind it were the missiles of destruction and death. Soon there was a rumbling sound "as the rushing of a mighty wind," and so it was. A moment later, about 7:30, that bank of blackness had burst upon us in all its fury, and continued with but little cessation for an hour and a half. The appalling sensation at such times cannot be described; it is only realized when felt, and at these times do we fully feel how frail we are and our utter helplessness. Our house, although rocked like a cradle, was left standing. He who stills the winds saw fit to save and shelter us and for which our hearts turned with gratitude. Buff Wood, living immediately north of us, had his house broken and twisted so it was not safe, picked up his sick wife (Bessie Carey) and sought shelter with us, Mrs. Fetterman, Mrs. Wood's sister, with her baby following them through the beating storm, crawling and feeling their way along as best they could. Just north of them lived a widow and her two

daughters by the name of Leard, whose house and the contents were entirely swept away and the mother badly hurt. They, too, crawled to our place for shelter and all that came to us for shelter were bruised and beaten by the hailstones. They were indeed a pitiable sight and we tendered them all the hospitality in our power. Mrs. McCabe was tenderly binding up wounds and pouring "oil in wine." We could not make a fire for our shivering guests and dry clothing was a scarce article with us. Nothing could be found dry but a couple of pairs of my husband's pantaloons and the same of shirts. But there was no query about shape or fit. The old lady and Mrs. Fetterman donned them with a will and were comfortable in that garb until the next day.

Twenty-one houses were moved from their foundations. Some were damaged considerably, others but slightly. I do not now recollect the number of buildings entirely destroyed. Silas Welch, on South Main street, had just finished a kitchen and porch. All, with the contents of the kitchen, were carried no one could tell where. The main part of the house was moved on an adjoining lot and the furniture badly damaged. William Price and his bride, who were enjoying their honeymoon in their cozy home on South Main street, had their kitchen torn away, the house badly demoralized and themselves set out in the beating storm. Judge W. P. Campbell suffered severely. His house stood on the ground now occupied for the city park; it was entirely demolished, himself, wife and Miss Susie Lawrence all being roughly handled by the elements and their child seriously injured.

Those who received the most severe blows were the families of Sam Langdon and Dr. J. A. McKenzie. Mr. Langdon, living two miles south of town, had his log house torn down and a little daughter buried beneath its ruins. Dr. McKenzie, who had not long occupied his new home on Settler street, directly west of the John Caldwell home, had it laid in ruins, the Doctor was seriously hurt and Mrs. McKenzie slightly. Their daughter, Gertrude, escaped unhurt, but Lonell, their little three and one-half years old son, perished that terrible night. Taken from his mother's arms as she was preparing him for bed she saw him no more until shrouded in his coffin. His lifeless form was found near where the El Dorado Carriage Works now are. Our hearts were all touched, for we had learned to love the bright little fellow. He is safe over; no storm can reach him now, "and he is waiting and beckoning for thee." H. H. Gardner and John Gilmore had their house and goods considerably damaged. Mrs. William H. Thomas had her house badly wrecked and the most of her millinery goods ruined.

Jacob Carey's house, just south of it, was lifted and moved so that the family deserted it and swam across to the livery barn. That barn, the old stone hotel and Dr. White's house seemed to be tornado proof and were places of general gathering for the homeless and benighted sufferers. Mrs. Thomas managed through difficulties to reach the barn, but found that some of the back of her dress was gone and she was

minus a portion of her hair that so beautifully ornamented her head. The next day her hair was found fast to the tin roof of the court house down in Silas Welch's yard. This is one of the hairbreadths. A. Mussulman's house was laid in ruins. His family of seven were scattered and lost, groping their way in different parts of town. Mrs. Mussulman found her way to Carey's barn, having lost the most of her clothing. Col. H. T. Sumner was found on his knees imploring Divine aid, as his house was about to be carried away. Col. W. H. Redden's house, which was not yet completed, was blown to pieces, himself injured and household goods badly damaged. George and Eugene Younkman, who were keeping house for I. M. Bobb, had their shanty carried off from them and for a time they sought refuge under a buffalo skin. After the storm had somewhat subsided they undertook to go home and came very near being drowned.

The next morning was just as lovely as a Kansas June morning can be. But there was devastation all around. Crops that the night before had seemingly looked more promising than ever had been broken and beaten into the ground so that there was scarcely a blade visible. Yet for all these we had great reason to be thankful. Thankful that we were spared to look at the beautiful sunlight, and while it was thought that no good thing would come out of what seemed to be lifeless, the wind started up from the southeast and in forty-eight hours the mangled and bruised stalks of corn and vegetation took on new life so that we were blessed with a fair crop after all. During that entire summer whenever there was a cloud commenced to rise in the northwest we might see those who had their homes wrecked starting for places of safety and the bruises and cuts from the great hail stones were a constant reminder of what they had passed through and what they wanted to steer clear of if possible.

#### WING IN THE SEVENTIES.

By Hattie B. Kelly.

It was two o'clock, September 21, 1872, a typical Kansas autumn day, when the denizens of Hickory Creek began gathering at the P. B. Whittlesy farm, now the M. C. Kelly place, for the purpose of making arrangements for raising money to build a school house in what is now Wing school district No. 43. Little being accomplished at this meeting, it was not until March 27, 1873, that the sum of \$300 was unanimously voted for the purchase of material and building. John Duff, John Wing, Nathan Blunt, M. J. Hampton, Minos West, A. J. Lightfoot, Wesley Cornell, John Shannon, Mrs. Steel, P. B. Whittlesy, Riley Rather and others having paid Uncle Sam the required sum of two hundred dollars for their respective quarter sections, accepted the burden of taxation thus imposed upon them, and while it was thus easily decided to build,

considerable controversy existed as to the location. Whether the broad view, the great distance from water, the exposure to the Kansas zephyrs or the advantage of athletics in hill climbing were the arguments that won for the present location, I am not able to say, but John Wing, in consideration of the house bearing his name, gave to the district the present site of two acres of ground and that being composed of earth and gravel outweighed argument, and at the meeting held on July 21, 1873, the vote stood fourteen for the present site and seven against it. The patrons of the school were to haul the lumber for the building, the framing from the Timber creek saw mill and the siding, roofing and flooring and other material from Emporia, the nearest railroad station at that time. E. M. Kelly hauled and unloaded the first load of framing timber and in a spirit of public beneficence, attempted to lay out a road by descending the bluff just north of the present school building, but as it was some time in the night not discernable by the north star, neither he nor the public were ever afterward able to find the road.

It was after the rest of the lumber had arrived from Emporia that Mr. Penn, the contractor and builder, discovered that some one had blundered and the sheeting for the roof was no longer than the required dimensions of the building, but Emporia was too far away to rectify the mistake and Wing was built, an eye-sore to lovers of good architecture.

It was in the fall and winter of 1873 that the first school was taught by Miss Phoebe Baily, the house having previously been furnished with home-made desks far too high for the average pupil. A blackboard of three rough boxing boards fastened together, painted black and suspended from the wall by pieces of leather and a huge box stove in which vain attempts were made to burn green elm wood. The stove had unfortunately been placed in the northwest corner of the house and that as built offered but little resistance to the wintry blasts, and the pupils were often obliged to gather around the stove after the manner of a large family circle.

It was during this first term that the teacher, having occasion to chastise a scholar, almost a young man, for some misconduct, deferred the matter until the next day, either to let her anger subside or to procure the necessary hickory. The young man, too, came prepared by placing a young sheep skin beneath his clothes, and whether the imperiousness of this scholar to hickory oil gave Wing the name of a hard school, I am not able to say, but such was its reputation which led subsequent teachers into disagreeable follies. Our second teacher, a Mr. Allen, was second to none in inefficiency. He walked to his boarding place, some two and a half miles away, in order to have that lady help him with arithmetical problems that he was unable to solve. His smaller pupils, having learned the order of their classes, would take their places out on the floor without being called to recite their lessons and return to their seats without any of the teacher's concern. His

arbitrary methods of expulsion having gained him the ill will of a great many, the young men of the neighborhood bombarded the school house with rocks, barricaded the door with cord wood and the teacher and scholars found it necessary to make their exit through the window. Thus peremptorily ended our second term of school.

Wing was not without romance, and our third term ended in the elopement and marriage of the teacher, Miss Carrie Smith, to Louis F. Hayes, a young man of the neighborhood. Our fourth term passed off quietly with Miss Jennie Hayes as teacher, making a total of twelve months in four years. Our fifth term of four months was taught by R. R. Davis, of Douglass. The school board adopted uniformity of text books and we were provided with a better blackboard and later on a coal stove was placed in the center of the house with coal for fuel added greatly to the comfort of teachers and scholars. H. C. Walers, R. R. Davis, a second term, and Mr. Crisp completes the record for the decade.

Forty years have wrought a great many changes. M. C. Kelly is the only one now living that attended the first meeting in the district. Mrs. Belle Sumwalt, of Latham; Mrs. Hattie Kelly, of Latham, and Mrs. Etta Asmussen, of Leon, are the only residents of the county that attended school at Wing in the seventies. Even Wing, of which I write, has been replaced by a more commodious building.

Only those who enjoyed the meager school facilities of those early days could fully appreciate the advantages of Wing as it is today, and while we have just cause to lament those early disadvantages, we rejoice that the scholars of 1916 can be better provided for.

Still sits the school house on the hill,  
A most conspicuous thing,  
A landmark seen from far and near,  
And by its name called Wing.

The prairie grass still grows upon  
The school house playing ground,  
And wild flowers bloom there like those  
I long ago had found.

The same old rocks are on the hill,  
The hollows on each side,  
The landscape, too, is much the same—  
It still is far and wide.

And to the north Old Hickory runs  
On t'ward the setting sun;  
'Tis ever in a hurry,  
Yet its work is never done.

And from the resin weed, the lark  
Sends forth the self-same trill;  
I thought it said when I was young  
That laziness you will kill.

But the faces, loving faces,  
That we met there day by day,  
There are now none left to greet us  
As we pass along life's way.

Forty years have brought great changes,  
But the memory lingers still;  
Oh, the days when I in childhood  
Went to school on that same hill.







*J. D. Joseph*

## CHAPTER 7

### Generalized Linear Models

Linear models are a special case of generalized linear models (GLMs). In a GLM, the response variable is assumed to follow a distribution from the exponential family, and the mean of the response is related to a linear combination of the predictors through a link function. The most common GLM is the normal linear model, where the response is normally distributed and the link function is the identity function. Other common GLMs include the binomial model for binary outcomes, the Poisson model for count data, and the gamma model for positive continuous outcomes. The GLM framework provides a unified approach to modeling a wide range of data types and is a fundamental tool in applied statistics.

In 1989, Nelder and Wedderburn generalized the Whitehead model to include a capital stock. The new model, known as the Nelder-Wedderburn model, is a GLM where the response variable is the capital stock, and the predictors are the variables from the Whitehead model.



*Wm. H. ...*

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

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**J. D. Joseph**, cashier of the Bank of Whitewater, is not only a conspicuous figure in the financial and political affairs of Butler county, but is widely known throughout Kansas as a financier and a prominent legislator. Mr. Joseph was born at Joseph's Mills, Taylor county, West Virginia, December 15, 1864, and is a son of James and Nancy (Conaway) Joseph. James D. Joseph comes from Colonial ancestry, among whom we find Thomas Conaway, a native of County Fermanagh, Ireland, who served as a soldier under General Braddock in the French and Indian war, and later was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. One of the descendants of Thomas Conaway, Rev. Charles Conaway, now resides at Fairmount, W. Va. Waitman F. Joseph, the grandfather of James D., was a Kansas pioneer. He married Sarah Cox, a member of the famous Cox family, to which Attorney General Cox, of West Virginia, and the late Dudley Evans, of Brooklyn, N. Y., president of the Wells-Fargo Express Company, belonged.

James D. Joseph was reared on his father's farm until seventeen years of age and attended the public schools. Later he attended the Fairmount State Normal School at Fairmount, W. Va., where he was graduated in the class of 1884, with the highest honors of his class. He also took a post-graduate course in that institution. After completing his educational work, which was devoted mainly to the sciences, he taught school for a time, and also raised tobacco and worked at other pursuits, and assisted his father in paying off his debts. In 1885 he came to Kansas and located in Butler county. He taught school and followed farming until 1893, when he engaged in the banking business, in which he has since continued. He started his banking institution with a capital of about \$6,000, and the Bank of Whitewater has had a rapid and substantial growth until, exclusive of real estate, it is the third largest bank in Butler county. Its policy has always been conservative enough for safety, and at the same time sufficiently progressive to meet the demands of development, and it can be truly said of the Bank of Whitewater that it is large enough to accommodate its customers and not too large to appreciate them.

In 1903 Mr. Joseph organized the Whitewater Telephone Company, with a paid up capital stock of about \$60,000. This was one of the pio-

neer telephone companies of Butler county, and Mr. Joseph stood by the new company and gave his time and money to make it a success.

The intricate problems of banking and finance have received a great deal of attention from Mr. Joseph, and he has made a profound study of the subject. As vice-president of the Eighth District Kansas State Banking Association, he wrote and published a pamphlet entitled, "Monetary Reform," in opposition to the central bank plan, as proposed by Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island, about that time. Mr. Joseph was the first banker in the United States to issue the denominational cashier's checks in the panic of 1907, and after using these checks for a time at his counter he ordered from his correspondent in Kansas City, Mo., the First National Bank, this form of credit, and received the following letter, under date of October 29, 1907: "Dear Mr. Joseph: We wish to thank you for your letter of the 28th inst. You are entitled to be called 'a captain of finance' and your head is working all right. We are sending you tonight cashier's checks issued to bearer, as many as we can prepare, equal in amounts to \$5,000, and will send you the balance tomorrow. Again thanking you for the suggestion, we remain, yours truly, C. G. Hutchinson." This letter alone shows the estimation placed by other bankers on Mr. Joseph's judgment and his ability to grasp situations when emergencies arise.

Mr. Joseph was elected to the Kansas State Senate in 1912, and during the first session was chairman of the committee on banking, and one of the most active and influential members of the senate. During that session he introduced twenty-two bills, seven of which became laws. During the session of 1915 he introduced thirty bills, of all of which he was the author. Ten of these bills became laws. He was also the author of a number of bills introduced by other senators. He was one of the influential Democrats of the senate, and was instrumental in the passage of much progressive legislation. He favored laws for old age employees' pensions, created out of a fund produced on a profit sharing basis, and is largely responsible for the progress that was made in recall legislation, and altogether won a reputation of being one of the hardest working members of the senate.

Mr. Joseph has always been a friend of progressive banking laws, and drafted the first bank guarantee bill ever introduced in the Kansas legislature, and this bill is practically now the law of the State of Kansas. He favors a system of taxation whereby all debts will be deducted from the personal property and taxes levied on the remainder only, and the deficiency made up by more stringent tax dodger laws and taxes upon incomes, franchises and privileges. Mr. Joseph is not especially fond of the so-called game of politics, but is a man of deep conviction, and when he believes that a principle is right he will fight for it to the limit. He is an orator of no ordinary ability and is a forceful campaigner.

Mr. Joseph was married March 3, 1892, to Miss Mary Neiman, and

two children have been born to this union: Donald and Marion. Donald graduated from the Whitewater High School in the class of 1911, and from the University of Kansas in the class of 1915. He was president of his class at the university, and has shown marked ability as a public speaker. Marion is also a graduate of the Whitewater High School, and is now a member of the junior class at Kansas University. Since she was a child, she has shown marked literary ability and has written a number of sketches and poems, some of which have been published by leading magazines.

**Dr. R. S. Miller.**—In the death of Dr. R. S. Miller, January 15, 1916, El Dorado and Butler county lost not only an eminent physician, but one of its most honored and useful citizens. Dr. Miller came to Butler county at a very early date in the history of this section of Kansas, and while at the time of his death he was comparatively a young man, his span of life lacking considerable of the proverbial three score and ten allotted to man, he was one of Butler county's very early pioneer settlers. (He came here when he was a very young man.)

Dr. Miller was born in Green county, Wisconsin, December 9, 1851, and was a son of Jacob and Ann (Breaks) Miller, natives of Indiana. His father died when a young man, and shortly after the father's death, the mother returned to Indiana, making Crawfordsville her home, where she died in 1865, when Dr. Miller was about fourteen years of age. He was one of a family of three children: Elizabeth, who married James Taylor and now resides near Crawfordsville, Ind.; John, who died in young manhood, and the subject of this sketch.

Dr. Miller received a good common school education in Indiana and later attended Wabash College, at Crawfordsville. In the summer of 1868, he came West and settled at Topeka, Kans., where he remained about a year and a half. He attended the Kansas State Normal School, at Emporia, about a year, then came to Butler county. He located at Towanda and established the first drug store in that town. He came here with Dr. Angel, with whom he had read medicine at Emporia, and continued his studies under Dr. Angel's preceptorship. Later, in addition to his drug business, he opened a hardware store at Towanda in partnership with Harvey Dickey. In 1875 he disposed of his mercantile interests at Towanda and returned to Crawfordsville, Ind., where he engaged in the drug business for four years, and in the meantime he took a medical course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Indianapolis, Ind., and was graduated in 1878, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After practicing one year at Crawfordsville, he went to Linden, Ind., where he was engaged in the practice of his profession until 1882, when his health failed, and he decided that the climate of Kansas would be beneficial to him. He accordingly returned to Butler county and again settled at Towanda. He spent his time on the farm, and in a few years his health was fully restored. In 1892 he took up the practice of his profession again at Towanda, Kans. Two years later he

moved to Ed Dorado, where he was engaged in active practice at the time of his death. Dr. Miller had a large practice and was one of Butler county's most able physicians. He was always a close student of the science of medicine, and in his professional work was very successful.

Dr. Miller was married December 24, 1872, to Miss Viola Waite, of Towanda. Mrs. Miller was reared and educated at Dwight, Ill., and came to Kansas with her parents, who settled in Butler county in 1871. To Dr. and Mrs. Miller were born the following children: Tessie, a graduate of the fine art school of the University of Kansas, married D. C. Porter, and is now deceased; Pearl a graduate of Kansas University, now deputy register of deeds of Butler county, is an artist of unusual ability, was a teacher in the Douglass High School for two years and in the Ed Dorado High School for two years, and also served as a member of the county examining board while C. F. Smith was county superintendent; Grace, a graduate of Kansas University, was a teacher in the Whitewater High School one year and the El Dorado High School two years, is now the wife of Robert Worline, a prominent attorney of Kansas City, Kans.; Bess, also a graduate of Kansas University, having made music a special study, resides at home; and two boys who died in childhood.

Mrs. Miller is a daughter of Simon and Maria (Denman) Waite, the former a native of New York and the latter of Ohio. The Waite family came to Butler county in 1871, and the parents both spent their lives in this county. Mrs. Miller bears the distinction of having been one of Butler county's pioneer school teachers, being the third teacher to have charge of the Towanda schools. The first was Miss Pratt and the second, Mr. Litson, and Dr. Miller succeeded Mrs. Miller. Dr. and Mrs. Miller met and became acquainted while she was teaching at Towanda. Mrs. Miller is a talented musician and for a number of years taught music in Indiana and Butler county, Kansas. She is a very capable woman and has been prominent in church and club work for a number of years. She is a member of the Woman's Mutual Benefit Club and has been president of the local organization. She has also been vice-president and president of the Eighth district, chairman of the civil service committee of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs, and a member of the legislative committee of that organization. She attended the national federation at Boston as a State delegate and also the National Federation at San Francisco as the Eighth Kansas district delegate.

Mrs. Miller was president of the Woman's Mutual Benefit Club when the question of securing a Chautauqua for El Dorado was taken up by that organization, and it was largely through her efforts and untiring labor that the Chautauqua was brought to this county. When the Miller family lived in Towanda Mrs. Miller was active in church work and for a time was superintendent of the Sunday school and for several years was assistant superintendent. Her work among the boys was



especially marked by success. She had charge of all the children's entertainments and devoted herself to her work in a way that spelled success for any occasion.

When the city took over the library, Mrs. Miller was the one to circulate the petition to get the required number of signers in order to bring the proposition to a vote. She was untiring in her efforts until it was carried through to a successful culmination and this was the first successful move to bring about the El Dorado Free Library.

Dr. Miller will be remembered as one of the best public officials that El Dorado ever had. He was elected mayor of El Dorado in 1909 and conducted the affairs of the city in such a capable and satisfactory manner that he was elected to a second term and served four years in all. The very first business letter which he wrote upon becoming mayor of El Dorado was to Andrew Carnegie concerning the establishment of a library at El Dorado. He was one of the active promoters of the library project and at the outset of his first administration appointed a live committee, who co-operated with him and made possible El Dorado's Free Public Library, which is now one of the important institutions of this city and one of particular pride to the people of El Dorado.

Much municipal improvement was brought about by Dr. Miller's efforts during his two terms as mayor. The first paving in the city was done, which consisted of fourteen blocks, the first concrete crossings were laid and El Dorado's white way was also installed, as well as a great deal of other general improvements. His administration was conducted on a substantial business basis and the financial condition of the city was much improved during his two terms in office, and those who are familiar with the conduct of the city's affairs for years agree that Dr. Miller was the most capable and efficient mayor that El Dorado ever had.

While Dr. Miller was mayor of El Dorado he missed but one meeting, and for seven years, while he was a member of the school board, of which he was president for a number of years, he never missed a single meeting, either special or regular. He was the first man to advocate the erection of the McKinley School building, as a separate and independent structure, which was carried out according to his plans. The original idea of other members of the board was to build an addition or an annex to the high school building, instead. He took a deep interest in educational matters and made an ideal public school officer. When he became a member of the El Dorado school board the financial condition of the El Dorado schools was bad. They had been taxing to the legal limit and at the same time creating a deficiency, and Dr. Miller devised a plan whereby it was possible to maintain the schools, although under this plan it was necessary to reduce the school term one month per year and also reduce the teachers' salaries, but this was the only alternative and was accepted cheerfully by those who understood the situation.

Dr. Miller was also the first to advocate the purchase by the county of the entire square where the new court house now stands, instead of building that structure on the site of the old court house. The wisdom of that project is now clear to all, but at that time seemed impossible to many. He also initiated the movement to erect the Murdock Memorial Fountain on the court house square. This work was done by popular subscription at a cost of \$600 and Dr. Miller not only carried out the project, but was the largest contributor.

Dr. Miller was a member of the Fraternal Aid, the Knights and Ladies of Security, and the Modern Woodmen of America. His political affiliations were with the Republican party and he always supported the policies and principles of that organization. Dr. Miller will long be remembered by the people of El Dorado and Butler county and his death is not only a great bereavement and loss to his immediate family and friends, but also a great loss to his many acquaintances and fellow citizens, who deeply appreciate his worth.

**Alphius Lamont Hamilton**, one of the leading attorneys of El Dorado, is the nestor of the Butler county bar and one of the foremost legal practitioners in the State of Kansas. Mr. Hamilton was born in Harrisville, Butler county, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1850, and is a son of William and Catherine (Logan) Hamilton. The Hamilton family has been prominent in America since Colonial times. The great, great grandfather of Judge Hamilton was James Hamilton, who came to Newton township, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, with the Scotch-Irish migration of the first half of the eighteenth century. James Hamilton married Peggy Laughlin and died in 1777, leaving three sons all of whom served in the Pennsylvania militia during the Revolutionary war. His youngest son, Hugh, born near Carlisle, Pa., married Martha Moorhead and settled in Westmoreland county about the end of the eighteenth century. Among Hugh's sons was William Hamilton, Judge Hamilton's grandfather, who served in the War of 1812, and later became prominent in the State militia, rising to a brigadier-generalship. The wife of General Hamilton was Sarah Stewart. William Hamilton, the third son of Gen. William Hamilton, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1818, and married Catherine Logan. During the Civil war he served in the Third Pennsylvania heavy artillery, which performed a large amount of duty at the front, both by land and sea. After the war he removed to Floris, Davis county, Iowa, where he resumed his occupation of building contractor. One of the four children that accompanied the family to Iowa in 1866 was A. L. Hamilton of this review. Judge Hamilton's grandfather on the maternal side, Robert Logan, also served in the Union army as a member of the famous "Roundhead" regiment, officially known as the One Hundredth regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry. He entered the service at the advanced age of sixty-four and died from exposure at Newport News, Va., before his three years' service was over. The maternal great grandmother of

Judge Hamilton, Massie Dillon, when a girl of twelve years was captured, scalped and left for dead by the Indians in a raid at Phillipsburg, N. J., both of her parents being killed at the same time. She was afterwards found by white settlers and finally recovered. Her father, Isaac Dillon, of New Jersey, was a soldier in the Continental army in the War of the Revolution.

Judge Hamilton secured his preparatory education in the public schools and Harrisville Academy, in his native county, and at Iowa City, Iowa. He read law with Gen. James B. Weaver, who was a candidate for President of the United States in 1880 and again in 1892, at Bloomfield, Iowa, and later with Judge Williams, of Ottumwa, Iowa. Being thus prepared, he entered the law department of the University of Iowa, in which he completed the prescribed course and graduated as a member of the class of 1871, being admitted to the bar in June of the same year at Des Moines, Iowa. He forthwith began the practice of his profession, removing to Emporia, Kans., July 12, 1871, at which place he began the practice of law with Ed S. Waterbury as an associate. In the following April he located in El Dorado, Butler county, where he has since continued his work, devoting his attention to the general lines of practice. In 1886 he formed a partnership with J. K. Cubbison and this association continued until 1890, when the firm of Clogston, Hamilton, Fuller & Cubbison was organized with offices in El Dorado, Eureka and Kansas City. In 1892 this firm was dissolved, and Mr. Hamilton later formed a partnership with Bruce R. Leydig, under the firm name of Hamilton & Leydig, which association continued until March 1, 1916, when the partnership was dissolved. Recently Judge Hamilton has associated himself with James Blaine McKay, late of Olathe, Kans., under the firm name of Hamilton & McKay, for the general practice of law. Politically, Mr. Hamilton is a Republican, influential in the councils of his party and strong in the advocacy of its cause. He was elected county attorney of Butler county and served during the years 1877-1878. In 1887 he was elected judge of the Twenty-sixth Judicial District, but resigned the position after about one year's service, preferring the active practice of his profession to the bench. He is very successful in his practice, a large part of which is in the United States courts, and he is the attorney for the Citizens' State Bank of El Dorado and also for the Missouri Pacific railway and other important corporations. He is a member of both the Kansas State and the American Bar Associations.

On August 12, 1873, Judge Hamilton was married to Jennie, daughter of Joseph Carr, of Augusta, Kans., and who was a pioneer of Butler county, living to the advanced age of ninety-six years and having cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay in 1832. To Judge and Mrs. Hamilton have been born the following children: Dillon, a prominent dental surgeon, of El Dorado; Homer, a graduate of the Kansas City College of Law, class of 1899, and is now practicing his profession in

Kansas City, Mo., and Hugh, a graduate of the Kansas City Dental College, and now a resident of Kansas City, Mo. The family is among the leading citizens of Butler county.

**John Bunyan Adams.**—To the citizens of the State of Kansas, Mr. Adams is favorably known, through his service in connection with the work of its Legislature, of which, for six years, he was a member; as a prominent and influential member of the Republican party, chairman of its State convention, in 1904, and acclaimed by many as of Congressional timber. The banking fraternity, he is known as one of the most progressive, capable, and successful men in the Kansas field of finance, and to the residents of Butler county, he is known as one of her native sons, who, through well directed effort, untiring energy, honesty and cleanliness in his business, political and social relations, has achieved well deserved honor and position as well as great personal popularity.

John Bunyan Adams was born on his father's farm, near Potwin, Butler county, Kansas, March 25, 1873, son of Amos and Nancy M. (Cain) Adams, members of old and honored American families. The Adams family was founded in America by Joshua Adams, who immigrated to Massachusetts colony from England, in 1660, and settled in Braintree. The family has been representative of the best citizenship and its sons fought in the French and Indian, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and have been active factors in the growth and development, from a pioneer standpoint, of Massachusetts, Maryland, Vermont, Illinois and Kansas. William Adams, the grandfather of John B. Adams, was a native of Hagerstown, Md., who came as a pioneer to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1835, and there became a successful farmer and a citizen of influence. His brother, Joseph Adams, came to Kansas in 1859, and settled three miles north of Potwin, Butler county, where he was a pioneer and achieved success in his pursuits.

Amos Adams, son of William Adams and father of John B., was born in Vermont, Fulton county, Illinois, February 25, 1843. He served as a soldier in the Civil War, being a member of Company D, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois infantry. This regiment was organized at Quincy, Illinois, and was mustered into the United States service February 23, 1865, for one year. It was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, February 8, 1866. Shortly after his discharge Mr. Adams came to Butler county, Kansas, where his uncle, Joseph Adams, had resided since 1859. He took up a homestead near Potwin, and engaged in farming. During a residence of forty years in Butler county, Mr. Adams was a potent factor in many phases of her growth and development. He acquired extensive holdings in choice farm land, banking interests of value, improved business and residence property, both in Potwin and El Dorado, was an influential Republican, but would never accept public office. He was actively identified with the Christian church and extended to it generous support. With the late N. F. Frazier, he was one of the organizers of the State Bank of El Dorado



*F. B. Colburn*





*J. B. Adams.*







*J. B. Adams.*

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and was for several years its vice-president. Mr. Adams married, on April 18, 1866, Nancy M., daughter of Jesse Cain, M. D., of Fulton county, Illinois, one the prominent physicians of that section of Illinois. They were the parents of seven children. John Bunyan is the eldest; Myrtle E. is the wife of Milo E. Ball, of Potwin, Kans.; Fern and Olive are deceased, and Rectina L. Johnson, of Potwin, Kans. Two girls died in early childhood. Olive died on November 30, 1911; Fern on February 11, 1915. The father died April 26, 1904, and the mother on September 9, 1914.

John Bunyan Adams secured his early education in the schools of Butler county and subsequently entered the Salina Normal University, at Salina, where he was graduated with the class of 1893. He taught school in Butler county during the school years of 1890-94. In May, 1894, he founded the "Leon Press," at Leon, which he conducted there until January, 1895, and then removed his plant to Augusta, and changed the name of the paper to "Augusta Press." He sold this newspaper in September, 1896, and removed to El Dorado, where he accepted the position of teller in the Farmers & Merchants National Bank. In July, 1899, in company with the late Nathan F. Frazier, he founded the Citizens State Bank, of El Dorado, and was made cashier of the same. On the death of Mr. Frazier, in 1907, he became the active manager of the bank and continued as such until 1909, when he disposed of his interest in the institution. He immediately organized the Butler County State Bank, with a capital of \$25,000, which at this writing, 1916, has surplus and profits of \$7,500.00, deposits of \$325,000.00, and it has paid during its seven years of business life satisfactory dividends to its owner. Mr. Adams is the cashier, managing executive and its controlling stockholder. He is also a stockholder and vice-president of the State Bank of Douglass, Kans. In 1903 he served as vice-president, and in 1904 as president of the Kansas State Bankers' Association. These honors came to Mr. Adams in the first eight years of his banking career, an exceedingly high compliment to his value as a bank executive and as an active and influential factor in the State organization.

As chairman and as a member of the Committee on Banks and Banking in the lower house of the State legislature, sessions of 1899, 1901, and 1903, he was successful in securing the passage of several amendments, of which he was the author, to the banking laws. A member of the Republican party, he was elected to the legislature, first in 1898, and reelected in 1900 and again in 1902, serving in all six years. During the session of 1901, he served as chairman of the Committee on Penal Institutions, and during the session of 1903 he was chairman of the Committee on Banks and Banking and a member of this committee during his three terms of service. He was also a member of the judiciary committee. In 1904 he was nominated for the office of State senator, but, with his party, was defeated at the ensuing election. In this year he served as chairman of the Republican State convention. In 1912 Mr.

Adams was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress against Victor Murdock, but was unsuccessful on account of arraying himself against the Roosevelt sentiment of his district. In 1916, he was elected one of the two delegates from the 8th district to the Republican National convention held at Chicago when Hughes was nominated for President.

During his banking life he has found time to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1899, but has never entered upon the practice of that profession, his object in qualifying himself for the bar being to assist him in his banking enterprises. Mr. Adams is the owner of several tracts of valuable farming land in Kansas and Oklahoma, and he manages for his wife a 1,000-acre farm situated twenty-five miles south of Kansas City, and which is one of the beautiful places of northwestern Missouri. Mr. Adams has attained to the Knights Templar and Scottish Rite degrees in Masonry and is affiliated with Midian Temple Shrine of Wichita.

On November 29, 1905, Mr. Adams wedded Miss Edna Frazier, only daughter of the late Nathan F. Frazier, of El Dorado (see sketch), and they have two children: Frank Frazier, born October 10, 1907, and John Bunyan, Jr., born January 20, 1911. Mrs. Adams is a lady of culture, a great favorite in social circles, of which she is a leader, and their home on Walnut Hill, El Dorado, is the scene of many gracious hospitalities.

**Frederick E. Dillenbeck, M. D.**, of El Dorado, is one of Butler county's leading physicians and surgeons. Dr. Dillenbeck was born near Governour, St. Lawrence county, New York, April 4, 1867, and is a son of Charles B. and Helen (Visscher) Dillenbeck; a sketch of Charles B. Dillenbeck appears in this volume. Dr. Dillenbeck attended the public schools in his native State, and in 1882 came to Butler county, Kans., with his parents and the family settled five miles west of El Dorado, where the father bought a ranch of 640 acres, known as the Dillenbeck ranch. The family remained on the ranch during the summer seasons and lived in El Dorado during the winter months, and Dr. Dillenbeck worked on the farm and attended school in El Dorado in winter.

When he was about seventeen years of age, Dr. Dillenbeck went to work in Dr. Basset's drug store at El Dorado and for eleven years was employed in that store, although it changed hands four different times. When Dr. Dillenbeck entered Dr. Basset's employ he received six dollars per month and at the end of eleven years, when he resigned, he was receiving \$150 per month. While he was employed here he studied pharmacy and passed the State board, thus becoming a full-fledged pharmacist. About the time Dr. Dillenbeck resigned his position at the drug store, he bought a pony, which he shipped to the territory and took part in the race at the opening of the strip in 1893. After a wild and hazardous chase he was fortunate in getting a lot, one-half a block from the court house square at Perry, Okla. This was a valua-

ble piece of property, even at that time, and he traded and bought and sold real estate in the new town of Perry for a time, and soon cleared \$1,800. He took this money and entered the University Medical College at Kansas City, Kans., and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1896 with the degree of doctor of medicine. After graduating, Dr. Dillenbeck engaged in the practice of his profession at El Dorado. He had a large practice from the start and for twenty years he has been uniformly successful in the practice of his profession. He specializes in X-ray, electro-therapeutics and diseases of women. Dr. Dillenbeck is a close student of the science of his profession and has taken a great deal of post-graduate work in Chicago and Kansas City, and he is also a graduate of the College of Electro-Therapeutics of Indianapolis, Ind.

During all these years that Dr. Dillenbeck has been engaged in practice in El Dorado, his offices have been located at the same place, 107½-109½ second floor, South Main Street, and here he has one of the largest and best equipped offices to be found in the State of Kansas. His suite consists of five rooms. He has a complete X-ray outfit, which is equipped with one of the largest coils made, which gives the machine the greatest possible efficiency, and he has a full electrical equipment. He also has one of the best private libraries in Butler county.

While Dr. Dillenbeck was employed in the drug store in El Dorado, he received the appointment of hospital steward in the Second regiment of the Kansas National Guard, under Major-Surgeon Frank C. Armstrong, and held that position in the National Guard until he was graduated from medical college in 1896. At that time he was appointed lieutenant-surgeon of the Kansas National Guard by Governor Morrell, and in September, 1899, he was appointed captain-surgeon of the Kansas National Guard by Governor W. E. Stanley, and in 1900 he was appointed major-surgeon of that organization by Governor Stanley and held that position until 1910, when he resigned, owing to the fact that he was unable to attend to the duties of that office and give his private practice the attention which he felt that he owed to his patients.

Dr. Dillenbeck was united in marriage June 4, 1892, with Miss Grace Scott, a native of Keokuk, Iowa. She is a daughter of James and Jennie M. (Best) Scott. The Scott family came to El Dorado when Mrs. Dillenbeck was a young girl and here she was reared and educated. The mother is now deceased and the father resides with Doctor and Mrs. Dillenbeck. To Dr. Dillenbeck and wife have been born two children: Robert, an automobile salesman, El Dorado, and Floyd, in the employ of the El Dorado Electric and Refrigerating Company, El Dorado. Both of the boys reside at home with their parents.

Dr. Dillenbeck is prominent in lodge circles, being a thirty-

second degree Scottish Rite Mason. He belongs to the Wichita Consistory, and he is a member of the Mystic Shrine, Midian Temple, Wichita, and A. F. and A. M., No. 79, El Dorado. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and a number of fraternal insurance companies. Dr. Dillenbeck is a medical examiner for a number of old line life insurance companies, and is local surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company, and he is consulting surgeon for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Association, the Military Surgeons of the United States, the Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America and the American Association of Railway Surgeons. He is a director in the Kansas Central Indemnity Company of Hutchinson, Kans., and is president of the El Dorado Oil and Gas Company. f

Dr. Dillenbeck has served as coroner of Butler county for two terms and has been county and city physician for several terms, and has also served on the El Dorado school board. He is a staunch Democrat and has always supported the policies and principles of that party. Dr. Dillenbeck is not only a capable and painstaking physician, with years of successful practice to his credit, but he is a genial and courteous gentleman whose kindly manner has won for him many friends.

**William H. Avery**, justice of the peace of El Dorado, is a Civil war veteran and a Butler county pioneer. Mr. Avery was born in Hillsdale, Mich., November, 19, 1837, and is a son of Horace B. and Mary (Hause) Avery, the former a native of Steuben county, New York and of New England stock, and the latter of Pennsylvania, and a descendant of Pennsylvania Dutch. The Avery family came from Vermont to New York State and Ebenezer Avery, grandfather of William H., was the founder of the family in New York. Horace B. Avery, and his wife, the parents of William H., removed from Steuben county, New York, to Michigan and spent most of their lives in Branch and Hillsdale counties, that State. H. B. Avery died at Pontiac, Ill., and the mother died at Hillsdale, Mich., in 1857.

William H. Avery is one of seven children born to his parents, as follows: William H., the subject of this sketch; C. F., a Civil war veteran who served in Company B, Eleventh regiment, Michigan infantry, and now resides at Pontiac, Ill.; D. S. was also a Civil war veteran and served in the same company as O. F. and was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, now living at Pontiac, Ill.; D. C. also served in the same company and regiment, was captured, and confined in Libby prison, contracting rheumatism from exposure, from which he never recovered and is now deceased; Mrs. Emily V. Swartout, a widow, residing at Bancroft, Mich.; Mrs. Anne Jeanette Austin, a

widow, residing at El Dorado, Kans., and Mrs. Ella Withington, a widow residing at Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Avery was reared to manhood in Hillsdale county, Michigan, and attended the public school. He was brought up on a farm and thus became familiar with that line of work, and in early life learned the stone-mason's trade, and worked at that occupation until July 31, 1862, when he enlisted at Hillsdale, Mich., in Company D, Eighteenth regiment, Michigan infantry. His regiment served with the army of the Cumberland, and after participating in a number of skirmishes, they took part in the battle of Nashville. Mr. Avery was thrown from his horse and his spine so severely injured that later he was placed in the invalid corps and detailed to duty in the quartermaster's department and served until after the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge in July, 1865.

Mr. Avery was married February 21, 1860, to Miss Mariah A. Hall, a native of New York who was reared and educated in Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Avery passed their golden wedding anniversary six years ago and bear the distinction of having been married longer than any other couple in Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Avery were born two children, Ulysses Sherman and Hattie L., the latter dying at the age of sixteen years. Ulysses Sherman married Maggie Dean, a Butler county girl, now deceased. Two children were born to Ulysses Sherman Avery and wife: Anne M., who was educated in private school and is a graduate of El Dorado High School, now serving her second term as clerk of the District court of Butler county, and Elizabeth, a student in the El Dorado High School. The mother of these girls died when the younger was about a year old, and the children were reared and educated by their grandparents and they seem more like the children of Mr. and Mrs. Avery than their grandchildren.

William H. Avery is a Kansas pioneer in the fullest sense of the term. He came to this State, or rather territory, in 1860, and at that time there was not a mile of railroad in the territory of Kansas. Mr. Avery came as far as St. Joseph, Mo., by rail, having started originally for Pikes Peak, but about the time he reached St. Joseph he heard discouraging news from the Pikes Peak boom and he drifted as far west as where Emporia now stands, the town at that time consisting of three houses, one of which belonged to Preston Plumb who later became United States Senator from Kansas. Mr. Avery went as far west as Little River on a buffalo hunt and has seen the plains when buffalo could be seen as far as the vision reached. In 1860 he killed seven buffalo on one trip, and when Mr. Avery first came to Kansas deer could be seen here by the thousands. After remaining here during the summer and fall of 1860, he returned to Michigan where he remained until he enlisted in the army, as above stated, and in 1865, after receiving his discharge, he returned to Kansas and located in Clifford township, Butler county, and was a pioneer of that section of

Butler county. He built the first stone school house in Butler county, which was in District No. 21, Clifford township, and was built in 1872 and is still standing. He built a number of stone dwellings in the early days. Further interesting historical information in reference to Mr. Avery's career in Clifford township will be found in the chapter containing the history of that township. When Mr. Avery settled in Clifford township his nearest neighbor was three miles distant and he experienced all the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life in Butler county. He remained on his Clifford township homestead until 1887, when he moved to El Dorado. Here he bought out a marble works and conducted that business for two years.

In 1890 Mr. Avery was admitted to practice as a pension attorney in the Department of the Interior at Washington, D. C., and since that time has conducted an extensive practice in that specialty of the law. He has been a notary public for a number of years and for twenty-four years has been a justice of the peace in El Dorado, and he has also been a police judge for six years. Mr. Avery is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Lew Wallace Post No. 66, and is past commander of the local order here. He was made a Mason at Lexington, Ky., fifty-two years ago, and for fifteen years has been secretary of the local lodge. He is a Republican and takes an active part in local politics and served as chairman of the Republican county central committee for six years.

**T. A. Kramer**, senior member of the firm of Kramer and Benson, one of the leading law firms of Butler county, is a native of Illinois. Mr. Kramer was born at Mt. Carmel, Ill., December 8, 1862, and is a son of Henry and Martha (Calverly) Kramer. The father was a native of Saarbrucken, Prussia, and the mother was born in Beverly, Yorkshire, England. Henry Kramer came to America when a child with his parents and located at Mt. Carmel, Ill. He grew to manhood there and engaged in farming which was his chief occupation. He died at Fairfield, Ill., December 8, 1915, aged eighty-five years six months and fifteen days. He had been retired for a number of years prior to his death. His wife also came to this country with her parents, when a child. She died July 21, 1915, aged eighty-two years.

T. A. Kramer is one of a family of twelve children, seven of whom are living, as follows: James H., lumber dealer, Fairfield, Ill.; E. C., a former district judge and at present general solicitor for the B. & O. and Southern railroad companies, East St. Louis, Ill.; T. A., the subject of this sketch; R. J., a prominent corporation lawyer of East St. Louis and first assistant to his brother, Judge E. C.; Harry S., East St. Louis, Ill.; Clara C., unmarried, resides at Fairfield, Ill.; and Mrs. Belle Mann, East St. Louis, Ill.

T. A. Kramer received a good common school education and in early life engaged in teaching school in Illinois. In 1884 he came to Kansas, locating at El Dorado, where he read law in the office of



George Gardner, now deceased, and was admitted to the bar January 6, 1886. He practised law alone for a time and later became associated with his former preceptor under the firm name of Gardner and Kramer. This partnership was dissolved years afterwards and Mr. Kramer formed a partnership with Judge A. L. Redden under the firm name of Redden and Kramer. This partnership continued for eight years and was terminated by the death of Judge Redden in 1905. Mr. Kramer continued the practice alone until July, 1910, when the present partnership was formed with George J. Benson, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. They have a large general practice and rank among the leading law firms of southern Kansas.

Mr. Kramer has long been recognized as one of the ablest lawyers of the Thirteenth judicial district. He is a close student of the law and an incessant worker. He is capable, conscientious and resourceful, and possesses a well balanced legal mind. As a trial lawyer he is ever ready, and is a formidable adversary to any lawyer in the State. He has held the office of county attorney of Butler county and has been city attorney for the city of El Dorado.

Mr. Kramer was united in marriage July 19, 1911 with Mrs. Clara Bourne Bright, a native of Shelby, Mo., and a daughter of Benjamin F. and Martha A. (Pierce) Bourne. The Bourne family came to Butler county in 1891, and now reside in El Dorado. At the time of her marriage Mrs. Kramer resided in Los Angeles, Cal.

Mr. Kramer is a Royal Arch Mason, having been made a Mason when he was a little past twenty-one. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America; Eastern Star; Fraternal Citizens; Knights of Mapira, and he and Mrs. Kramer are members of the Royal Neighbors. He is a member of the El Dorado library board and takes a keen interest in any movement for the upbuilding or betterment of the community.

While Mr. Kramer has always directed his energy and best efforts within the scope of his professional work, he has by judicious investments become one of the wealthy men of Butler county.

**V. A. Osburn**, an extensive real estate dealer of El Dorado, is a native of Illinois. He was born at Tallula, Menard county, that State, July 3, 1863, and is a son of Alfred M. and Amanda J. (Arnold) Osburn, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. They located in Menard county, Ill. at an early day and came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1884, locating in Augusta, where the father was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising during the remainder of his active career. He died in March, 1915, aged eighty-eight years, and the mother died in March, 1913, aged eighty-six. They both died in Wichita, where they had resided since 1910, the time of the father's retirement from active business.

Alfred M. Osburn was a real pioneer of the West. In 1849 he made the trip overland to California, with a party of about 150, from

Springfield, Ill., and the noted Indian scout, Kit Carson, was the guide of the expedition. They went by way of the southern route. Mr. Osburn remained in California about two years when he returned to Illinois and was married. In 1864, with his wife and family, in company with two or three other families, when V. A., of this review, was nine months old, he started on his second trip to the Pacific coast, this time over the northern trail, through Nebraska and over the mountains. They remained on the coast, however, but a short time when they returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York City. Shortly after that they came to Butler county, as above stated.

V. A. Osburn was one of a family of five children, three of whom are living. Mr. Osburn received a good common school education in the public schools of Illinois and upon coming to Butler county engaged in the stock business, and later was engaged in the mercantile business at Augusta for six years. In 1905, he engaged in the insurance and land business at El Dorado and has built up a profitable and extensive agency in both these lines. He makes a specialty of handling large stock ranches and has handled some of the most extensive deals of that character that have taken place in the county since he has been in business. He is also extensively engaged in handling oil properties.

Mr. Osburn was married June 12, 1889, to Miss Hattie Safford, of Augusta, and six children have been born to this union, as follows: Spencer, manager of a lumber yard, Clayton, New Mexico; Ruth, married Earl Brandon, El Dorado; Clara, a graduate of the El Dorado High School, class of 1914, resides at home; and Frank, Harriett and Robert, all residing at home and attending school. The wife and mother departed this life September 21, 1904.

Mr. Osburn is a Democrat and has been a conspicuous figure in Butler county politics for a number of years. He served two terms as clerk of the district court. He was chairman of the Democratic central committee for ten years. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and is a Knight Templar. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Christian church, and is one of Butler county's most substantial citizens.

**Dr. Joseph D. Hamilton**, the present county treasurer of Butler county, is a man whose faithfulness and efficiency and genial and courteous manner in the discharge of the duties of this important office, have won for him many friends throughout the county. He believes that public office is public trust, and that the patrons of his office are entitled to efficient and courteous service, and while he was generally well known throughout the county when he began this term of office, many taxpayers have learned things about Doctor Hamilton, as a public official that they did not know before, and each day during his term of office has added to his already long list of friends and supporters among the taxpayers of Butler county.



DR. J. D. HAMILTON



Dr. Hamilton was born July 9, 1848, in Pine Creek township, Ogle county, Illinois, and comes from a long line of American ancestors. His parents were Francis and Abigail J. (Haller) Hamilton, both natives of Washington county, Maryland, and pioneer settlers of Illinois. Francis Hamilton was a son of George Hamilton who was born in Maryland, May 4, 1800; and he was a son of George Hamilton who came from Ireland, and settled in Baltimore, during the latter part of the eighteenth century. The old Hamilton homestead was in the vicinity of the battle ground of Antietam. Doctor Hamilton's mother, Abigail Haller, was a daughter of Henry and Abigail J. (Hewett) Haller, both natives of Connecticut, and of old New England stock. When Dr. Hamilton's father went to Illinois, he and his father, and their families drove across the country from Maryland and took up homesteads on Government land in Ogle county, where Doctor Hamilton was born. In 1868, they came to Kansas and drove the entire distance from Illinois. They settled in Louisburg, Miami county, where they remained until 1874, when they removed to Keokuk county, Iowa, near Thornburg, and the Doctor's parents and his grandfather died, and are buried in that locality. The mother died in 1886, age sixty-three years. The father died in 1910, aged 86 years, and the grandfather died in 1878, and the grandmother died in 1880.

Dr. Hamilton's father was a farmer and an only child, and he and his wife were the parents of the following children; Mary Abigail, married John Wolf, Moravia, Iowa; Dr. Joseph D., the subject of this sketch; Sarah, married Fremman Cory, Des Moines, Iowa; George W., a minister, Denver, Colo.; Stephen A. D., farmer near Helena, Mont.; Charles M., physician and surgeon, Thornburg, Iowa; Frances Jane, married Frank Gibbons, Des Moines, Iowa; D. W., one of the leading attorneys of Iowa, and he has been a member of Congress from the Sixth Congressional district of that State, resides at Sigourney, Iowa; Della, married Mart Rigley, editor of the "Fremont News," Fremont, Ohio, and Margaret E., married Oliver Snyder, and resides near Sigourney, Iowa.

Dr. Hamilton received his education in the public schools of Ogle county, Illinois, and Rock River Seminary, and after coming to Kansas with his parents, taught school for a time in Miami county, and read medicine with Dr. G. W. Akers. Later he attended Bennett Medical College, and was graduated in the class of 1874, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He then engaged in the practice of his profession at Victor, Iowa, remaining there one year, when he went to Delta, Iowa, being the first physician in that town. He remained there until 1883, when he came to Butler county, and located at Douglass where he was actively engaged in the practice of his profession, and met with uniform success. In 1897, he was elected county treasurer of Butler county, and after serving a term of two years, returned to his practice at Douglass which he followed with the same degree of success as before,

and built up a large practice. In 1914 he was again elected county treasurer, and is now serving in that office. He has a nice farm of 80 acres, near Douglass, and a good home in Douglass.

Dr. Hamilton was married, near Louisburg, Kans., October 24, 1872 to Miss Amanda J. Childers, a native of Kenawha Falls, W. Va. She is a daughter of Nathan and Harriet (Hudleson) Childers, natives of Virginia, and very early settlers in Miami county, Kansas, coming there in 1859 when Mrs. Hamilton was nine years old. Her parents spent their lives in Miami county, and their remains are buried near Louisburg. To Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton have been born five children, as follows: Oliver, died in childhood; Della, married Joseph Creed, Douglass, and they have two children, Neva and Raymond; Clarence, died in childhood; Dean died in childhood; and Francis N., manager of the Hamilton pharmacy, Mackville, Stafford county, Kansas, married Miss Muryle Hern, of St. Johns, Kans.

Dr. Hamilton is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights and Ladies of Security, and holds membership in the Christian Church at Douglass. Politically he is a Democrat, but is not hide bound in his political creed, and is inclined to be liberal. He has served as mayor of Douglass, and was a member of the city council for a number of years and also served on the school board for five years. Dr. Hamilton is a man who makes friends not for the purpose of using them—but because that is his nature, and he is a loyal friend, himself. He is not of the type of men who live altogether for themselves, but perhaps, he may be selfish after all, for he has every ear mark of a man who gets pleasure out of doing good for others, at any rate that is his way of living, and we are inclined to think he could not do otherwise if he were to try.

Mrs. J. D. Hamilton is the author of the following verses:

On a bright May morning, I was born, A. D. 1852;  
 Thus, it was recorded in the family bible, and I know 'twas true.  
 Kanawha county, West Virginia, was the State,  
 But of that, I do not remember much to relate.  
 Now, in 1857 this country was inhabited by Indians wild,  
 We had no fears of them, for we knew they would not harm a child;  
 And just like all parents who have a chance  
 For their children's sake, like to enlarge their finance.  
 So in Miami county they decided to reside,  
 And, in 160 acres of land they took much pride.  
 Just forty years on those verdant hills, they made their home,  
 Being happy and contented they cared not to roam.  
 Now I was the first one to leave the home nest;  
 I had married a young M. D., and him I loved best.  
 He had reached his highest ambition, doctoring human ills;  
 And for ten years in Delta, Iowa, he dosed out the pills.

But so much snow in Iowa you never did see,  
Having talked the matter over we both did agree  
That to Butler county, Kansas, we would go,  
Thirty-three years have passed, never went slow.  
Butler county is already noted for its soil,  
And recently was made famous by both gas and oil.

**Forest H. Haines**, owner and proprietor of the leading department store of El Dorado and one of Butler county's most progressive merchants, is a native of Missouri. He was born in St. Joseph, March 6, 1877, and is a son of H. C. and Josephine (Hartzell) Haines, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. The father is a veteran of the Civil war and has been in the mercantile business all his life and is now a member of the mercantile firm of H. C. and C. S. Haines of Sabetha, Kans. He retired from active participation in the business at the age of fifty, and since then has spent most of his time in traveling.

Forest H. Haines is one of a family of eight children, as follows: Belle, deceased; Charles S., merchant, Sabetha; Mame, married A. E. Sloesson, banker, Newkirk, Okla.; Grace, married Joseph A. Crantz, iron manufacturer, Canal Dover, Ohio; Harvey L., proprietor of a department store, Maryville, Mo.; Forest H., subject of this sketch; Annie, married Walter C. Hardesty, manufacturer, New Philadelphia, Ohio; and Ethel, married Albert F. Young, proprietor of a department store, Lake City, Minn. Forest H. Haines was reared in Sabetha, Kans. and was educated in the public schools, and began his mercantile career February 9, 1894, at the age of seventeen, at which time he entered his father's store at Sabetha as a clerk. He remained in that capacity until 1900 when he and his brother, Harvey L., came to El Dorado and opened up a new store under the firm name and style of Haines Brothers. This partnership continued until 1912 when Forest H. became the sole proprietor and Harvey L., engaged in a similar enterprise at Maryville, Mo., where he is now located.

The business has had a constant and substantial growth and its many modern features places the business in a class with the modern department stores to be found in the larger cities, and the general appearance of this great mercantile institution bears conclusive testimony of the enterprise and progressiveness of Mr. Haines. In 1914, he saw the necessity of meeting the demand for a special line of goods and promptly added an annex to the general department store, where he carries a popular priced line of goods. This innovation has proved popular with the public and has fully met with the patronage which Mr. Haines anticipated. The Haines department store is located, perhaps, at the best business point in El Dorado, on the east side of Main street, near the center of the block between Central and Fourth avenues. The store has a frontage of seventy feet and is a substantial

two-story brick building, ninety-five feet deep, which building he owns. There are about fifteen employees in the store and the place usually presents a busy appearance.

Mr. Haines was united in marriage June 1, 1905, to Miss Mary, daughter of T. C. Ellett, president of the Ellett-Kandall Shoe Company, Kansas City, Mo. To Mr. and Mrs. Haines has been born one child, Irene, now a student in the El Dorado schools. Mr. Haines is a York Rite Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine, and was the youngest man to become a member of the Shrine at the time he joined.

**Zella Lamb**, the capable and efficient register of deeds of Butler county, is a native of Morgan county, Indiana, and a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (McKinley) Lamb, both also natives of Morgan county. Joseph Lamb was a son of Alfred and Rebecca (Tarry) Lamb, both natives of North Carolina. Alfred Lamb accompanied his older brother from North Carolina to Indiana when he was five years old. He grew to manhood in that State where he met and married Rebecca Tarry, a native of Indiana.

Alfred Lamb was a son of Cyrus Lamb, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and prominent in the political affairs of North Carolina in the early days of the Republic. He served as United States senator from that State shortly after the establishment of the Government. The Lambs are of Scotch-Irish descent, coming from the north of Scotland and the name Lamb was applied to the early members of the family on account of their vocation, they being shepherds in the highlands of Scotland.

Miss Lamb's mother, Elizabeth McKinley, was a daughter of George and Mary (Packwood) McKinley, both natives of Indiana. George McKinley was a son of William, a native of Ireland, who settled in Indiana, or what is now Indiana, when it was a part of the Northwest Territory. He was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Joseph Lamb was reared and educated in Indiana, and when the Civil war broke out, he was one of the first to respond to President Lincoln's call, and enlisted in Company 1, Thirty-third regiment, Indiana infantry, and served his country faithfully and well for a period of four years, or until the close of the war. He was with Sherman on his historic march through Georgia and to the sea, and at the battle of Atlanta was severely wounded by a piece of exploding shell which struck him on the forehead, leaving a scar about two and a half inches long which he carried throughout life. At the time he was wounded, he was unconscious for several hours and supposed to be dead, and was carried from the field of battle. After recovering from his wounds, he joined his regiment and served until the close of the war and after receiving his honorable discharge, returned to Indiana where he engaged in the mercantile business and farming until 1874, when he came to Kansas. A short time afterward he returned to Indiana and in 1879 was married to Elizabeth McKinley, and to this union were born



five children, as follows: Herbert A.; Zella, the subject of this sketch; Ernest; Belva and Zora, the two last named being deceased.

In 1886 the Lamb family came to Butler county and settled on a farm near Chelsea where the mother died in 1889 and the father died November 8, 1911. He was a man well posted in current events, a great lover of history and a student throughout his life. While serving in the Civil war he kept a complete diary of each day's doings, which is not only interesting and instructive but a masterpiece of narrative composition. He was an active supporter of the policies and principles of the Republican party but never held political office.

Miss Lamb was educated in the public schools of Butler county and the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia, and for twelve years taught in the public schools of Butler county and is considered one of the successful educators of the county. During the administration of county superintendent W. H. McDaniels, she served as a member of the county board of examiners. In 1911 Miss Lamb was appointed deputy register of deeds and in 1914 received the republican nomination for that office and was elected by a very satisfactory majority and took charge of the office in January, 1915. Her administration of the affairs of that important office has been very satisfactory as all those who have business with that department of the county's affairs can testify. Miss Lamb is a capable, courteous and obliging public official and conscientious in the performance of her duties. She is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps and the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a Republican.

**Chas. W. Steiger**, the present capable county attorney of Butler county, is a native of Kansas. He was born at Hollenberg, Washington county, Kansas, October 14, 1884. He is a son of J. W. and Thursia (Hazlett), the father a native of Germany, and the mother of Iowa. J. W. Steiger, the father, located in Washington county, Kansas, when he was a young man, and in 1890, he came to Butler county with his family, and located at Whitewater, where he is engaged in the drug business and is now a leading druggist of that town.

Chas. W. Steiger attended the public schools and the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia, and was graduated from the Newton High School in the class of 1902. He then entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Mich., and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1905. He then engaged in the practice of law at Topeka, where he was associated with R. B. Welch, and later Galen Nichols. He practiced his profession for four years in Topeka, when he located at Whitewater, and was successfully engaged in practice there until January, 1915, when he came to El Dorado to assume the duties of the office of county attorney, having been elected in November, 1914.

The industrial development of Butler county within the last year has materially added to the duties of the county attorney, and today,

Mr. Steiger finds himself confronted by the task of prosecuting malefactors in a great industrial county of the State, where hundreds of men of all character and conditions are employed, instead of the peaceful agricultural community that Butler county was when Mr. Steiger took the office. However, he is equal to the occasion, and has ably coped with the new conditions. He is a close student of the science of his profession, and an able lawyer, and as a public prosecutor, he is fair and fearless, and plays no favorites in his policy of law enforcement.

Mr. Steiger was married at Newton, Kans., June 2, 1910, to Miss Lulu Walt, a native of Walton, Kans., and at that time, a resident of Newton. Mrs. Steiger is a daughter of H. M. Walt, who now resides at Kansas City, Mo. To Mr. and Mrs. Steiger has been born one child, Walt A. Mr. Steiger is a thirty-second degree Mason. He belongs to the A. F. and A. M., Brainard Lodge, No. 280, Whitewater, Kans.; Wichita Consistory, No. 2, and he is also a member of the Mystic Shrine, Midian Temple, Wichita, and he also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, at El Dorado, Kans. Mr. Steiger is a Republican, and has always supported the policies and principles of that party, and he and Mrs. Steiger belong to the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Steiger is a conscientious public official, and since he has held the office of county attorney, the public business falling within the scope of his official duties, have been given prompt and careful attention, and he is a lawyer well qualified to represent the State of Kansas in court in a way that not only reflects credit upon himself, but upon the people of Butler county.

**Hector Sinclair**, of El Dorado, is a native of Stamford, Delaware county, New York. He was born April 23, 1846, and is a son of Hector and Anna (More) Sinclair, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Delaware county, New York. Anna More, the mother, was a granddaughter of John More, who was the first settler in the vicinity of Grand Gorge, N. Y. He kept a tavern at that point for a number of years, and the place was known as Moresville for a century. Hector Sinclair's father died when Hector was five weeks old, and shortly afterwards the mother with her five small children went to Walton, N. Y., where they made their home with Mrs. Sinclair's father, David More, for sixteen years.

When sixteen years of age, Hector Sinclair became an apprentice to S. H. White to learn the marble cutter's trade and served three and one-half years. He received a good common school education in the village schools and was graduated from Walton Academy. He worked at his trade in many of the principal cities of New York State, and in 1883 went to Iowa, locating at Corroll, where he remained one year. He then went to Appleton City, Mo., and remained there three years. In 1887 he came to Kansas and located at El Dorado where he has since been engaged in the marble and monument business, and is the only dealer in granite and marble monuments in El Dorado. He has

an extensive business which extends over a large territory.

Mr. Sinclair was married at Nunda, N. Y., in 1875, to Miss Carrie M. Page. Two sons and one daughter have been born to this union, as follows: Page, resides at Walton, N. Y.; Hector, Jr., Oklahoma City; and Mabel, married George J. Benson, El Dorado, Kans.

Mr. Sinclair is a member of the Masonic lodge and prominent in fraternity circles. He joined the Walton, N. Y. Lodge, No. 559, in 1867 and took the capitular degree in Steuben Chapter, No. 101, at Hornell, N. Y., and also the order of knighthood at the same place in De Molay commandery No. 22 and the Scottish Rite degree was conferred upon him in the Corning Consistory in 1874. He joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Dansville, N. Y., in 1872 and the Knights of Pythias at El Dorado. Mr. Sinclair is a progressive citizen and one of the substantial business men of El Dorado.

**Orville Holford**, the efficient county clerk of Butler county, was born near Leon, this county, July 22, 1888, and is a son of Francis D. and Margaret (Lingenfelter) Holford. The father is a Civil war veteran, and he and his wife now reside at Augusta, Kans. Francis D. Holford is a pioneer of Butler county, and came to this county with his father, John Holford, in 1869. They homesteaded in Logan township, upon coming here, and were among the very early settlers of that section. The Holford family comes from Revolutionary ancestry.

Orville Holford spent his early boyhood days in Leon, Kans., where he began his educational career in the public schools. Later his parents removed to Augusta, in 1900, and he attended the public schools there and was graduated from the Augusta High School in the class of 1907. He then took a course in the Iola Business College, Iola, Kans.

On June 1, 1909, he began his duties as deputy county clerk, under county clerk M. L. Arnold, and served in that capacity until January, 1913, when he assumed the duties of the office of county clerk, having been elected at the preceding election. In the fall of 1914, he was reelected to succeed himself, and his term of office expires in January, 1917.

Mr. Holford was married February 22, 1911, to Miss Minnie A. Clark, of Augusta. She is a daughter of Robert Clark, now deceased. Her mother resides in New York City. To Mr. and Mrs. Holford have been born two children: Robert and Francis.

Mr. Holford is prominent in Lodge circles. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Patmos Lodge, No 97, A. F. and A. M.; El Dorado Chapter, No. 35; Royal Arch Masons, El Dorado Commandery; Knights Templar, No. 19; and the Mystic Shrine, Midian Temple, Wichita, and is past master of the El Dorado Lodge, for the year 1915, and is district deputy grand master of the Thirty-fourth District of Kansas. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at El Dorado, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows,

Lodge No. 74, El Dorado. He and his wife are members of the Christian church, and he is a Republican.

During his seven years of public service in the county clerk's office, Mr. Holford has won the reputation of being one of Butler county's courteous, capable and obliging public officials, and his genial manner has won for him many friends and staunch supporters throughout Butler county.

**Robert H. Hazlett.**—Success in any occupation, in any avenue of business, is not a matter of spontaneity, but represents the result of the application of definite subjective forces and the controlling of objective agencies in such a way as to achieve desired ends. Mr. Hazlett has realized a large and substantial success, not only as a banker, farmer and breeder of cattle of pedigree, but as a lawyer; and his career has well exemplified the truth of the foregoing statements. He occupies a prominent place in the financial circles of Kansas, is the controlling force in one of the leading banks of Butler county, owns and operates one of the largest agricultural enterprises in the State, and is one of the most prominent breeders of Hereford cattle in America. Progressive and energetic in the management of these varied affairs, loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, he holds a secure position in the confidence and esteem of the community, and is recognized as one of the first citizens of southern Kansas.

Robert H. Hazlett was born on his father's farm in Christian county, Illinois, his paternal ancestry dating from colonial times, with residence in North Carolina. His grandfather, Robert Hazlett, was a native of Virginia, who came to Illinois in 1828, and located near Springfield, where he was one of the pioneer settlers, followed farming as an occupation and became a prominent and influential citizen. The parents of Robert H. Hazlett were William Phe and Zerelda (Haggard) Hazlett, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Kentucky. William Hazlett was a farmer. He was identified with the early development of Christian and Sangamon counties and realized a substantial success in his pursuits. He died at the advanced age of eighty-one.

Robert H. Hazlett was educated in the public schools of his native county, in the Springfield (Ill.) High School, and spent two years, 1868 and 1869, in the literary department of the University of Illinois, at Champaign. He then taught school two winters, in the meantime devoting his spare moments to the study of law and was graduated in the law department of the University of Michigan with the class of 1872. He was admitted to the bar at Springfield, Ill., in the same year, and practised his profession in that city from 1874 to 1885. As a Democrat he was elected State's attorney of Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1876, and was reelected in 1880. During the early eighties, Mr. Hazlett had purchased lands in Kansas and Nebraska, and when his second term as State's attorney expired, in January, 1885, he came west and located in El Dorado, where he engaged extensively in the real estate business,



ROBERT H. HAZLETT

buying and selling lands, and also practiced law. In 1887, he associated himself with the Hon. C. L. Harris, under the firm name of Hazlett & Harris, a partnership which continued until 1889, when he removed to Leadville, Colo., where he had important mining interests. He took active charge of these properties, developed them successfully, and in the fall of 1892, sold them for a highly satisfactory figure. He returned to El Dorado in January, 1894, and began investing the comfortable fortune he had acquired from his Colorado mining properties in adding to his previous holdings in Butler county lands, and also made his initial banking investment. He purchased a large interest in the Merchants State Bank, was elected president, and shortly afterward converted it into a National institution, under the name of Farmers and Merchants National Bank of El Dorado. He was elected president of the new organization and remained at its head, except for one year, until June, 1909, when he disposed of his holdings. On July 1, 1909, he was elected president of the El Dorado National Bank, of which he had purchased a majority of the stock, and under his management, it has grown to be one of the strong financial institutions of southern Kansas.

Mr. Hazlett is known to the banking world as an able and discriminating financier and has brought the administrative policy of his bank up to the point of highest efficiency. He was the organizer of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of El Dorado, and has served as its president for many years. As an owner of farm lands Mr. Hazlett ranks first in Butler county and among the leaders in the State. His Butler county holdings embrace over 10,000 acres, operated under his personal supervision. "Hazford Place," the summer residence of the family, is situated two miles north of El Dorado, and here he maintains the large breeding establishment devoted to registered Hereford cattle. A private water system furnishes water for all purposes; electric current is obtained by a private wire from El Dorado and is used for light and power, the residence, tenant houses and barns being equipped with this light. The lands lie along the Walnut river, and the hill slopes contain an abundance of limestone, which gives added strength to the natural grasses and the fertile bottom lands. The silt from the hillsides is not surpassed elsewhere, and doubtless much of the success in the development of the Herefords is due to the limestone grasses and the alfalfa.

In 1898 Mr. Hazlett made his first purchase of pedigreed Herefords. A lover of fine stock, his purchase was from a desire to have, in a small way, a breeding establishment, where he could, during his spare hours, enjoy the pleasure of ownership and improve his herd. That he has succeeded beyond his expectations is in all probability true. Among those who should know, he is credited with having the best herd of Hereford cattle in America. Beau Brummel 10th, No. 167719, is the sire of most of the females in the herd. Beau Beauty, No. 192235, and Caldo, second, No. 260440, have also added to the strain. The herd numbers some

200, only those animals being retained which show high class. Mr. Hazlett is a director of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association, is a member of the executive committee, and served as president of the association, in 1908-09. He is also a director and president of the American Royal Live Stock Show, and has done as much, if not more, to draw attention to Kansas cattle than any other breeder in the State.

On January 7, 1884, Mr. Hazlett married Miss Isabella, daughter of Col. James Bradford, of Springfield, Ill. They have no children, but have reared a nephew of Mrs. Hazlett, Robert Hazlett Bradford, cashier of the El Dorado National Bank. The town house of the family is the largest and most substantial residence in the county. It was built of native limestone, and is finished in hardwoods, grown on the home farm, "Hazford Place."

**James H. Sandifer**, owner and proprietor of the El Dorado Transfer Company, and local agent for the Standard Oil Company, is one of the progressive and enterprising business men of El Dorado. He is a native of Somerset county, Kentucky, born September 6, 1869, and is a son of George M. Sandifer. (For a more complete history of the Sandifer family see sketch of W. H. Sandifer, which appears in this volume.) James H. Sandifer was about eight years of age when he came to Butler county with his parents and here grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools. He began life in the employ of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, and in that connection also worked for the express company. He was located at Wichita about a year, during which time he was employed in the ticket office of the Missouri Pacific Company and for nine years he was employed in the El Dorado office of that company, during which time he worked under Russell R. Harding, A. H. Webb and William T. Kyle.

After being in the railroad service for ten years Mr. Sandifer resigned and engaged in the transfer business at El Dorado, and about the same time, he became local agent for the Uncle Sam Oil Company, and after that firm went out of business, he was agent for the Sunflower State Oil Company until 1909 when he became local agent for the Standard Oil Company, and has since capably filled that position. During all this time he has conducted his transfer business which has had a substantial growth and development and has become one of the important business enterprises of El Dorado. Mr. Sandifer uses six teams and a motor truck in connection with his transfer business and employs a great many men, never having less than six on his pay roll and frequently several times that many.

Mr. Sandifer was married to Miss Bertha C. Allen, a daughter of Chris and Ellen B. Allen. Mrs. Sandifer was born in Burlington, Iowa, and came to Butler county, Kansas, with her parents when she was a child. She was reared and educated here and is a graduate of the El Dorado High School. Her father was successfully engaged in the plumbing business here for a number of years, and is now de-

ceased, and her mother resides in El Dorado. To Mr. and Mrs. Sandifer have been born six children, as follows: James, a student in Kansas University; Robert, collector for his father, and is a graduate of the El Dorado High School; Ellen, a student in the El Dorado High School; Carrie Ethel, died at the age of two years; Mary Bell and Winifred. James is taking the electrical engineering course and Robert has given special study to wireless telegraphy, and is one of the experts in that line of work in the State. He has constructed a wireless apparatus and sends and receives messages over a large scope of territory.

Mr. Sandifer is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is local manager and past member of the council. He is one of the substantial citizens of El Dorado and Butler county.

**C. W. Harvey**, who is successfully engaged in the real estate and loan business, specializing in oil properties, has spent most of his life in Butler county. Mr. Harvey was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, in 1868, and is a son of Elijah E. and Malla (Flynn) Harvey, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Indiana. A sketch of the father, Elijah E. Harvey, appears in this volume. The Harvey family came to Butler county in 1872 when C. W. was four years old. They settled in Logan township where the father homesteaded a claim. C. W. Harvey was one of a family of seven children, five of whom are now living. He was educated in the public schools of Butler county and Garfield University of Wichita.

After leaving college Mr. Harvey was engaged in the drug business at Deighton, Lane county, Kansas, for five years. He then entered the employ of Charles Selig at El Dorado where he remained one year, and after that was in the employ of W. V. Miller for six years. In the spring of 1900, he engaged in the drug business for himself in El Dorado and three years later sold out, and again engaged in the drug business in 1913, and in the spring of 1916 he disposed of the drug business and engaged in the real estate and loan business. The real estate business is not a new venture for Mr. Harvey, as he has been more or less identified with that line of work for years. He makes a specialty of handling oil properties, and in this respect is on the ground floor of the great oil and gas development of Butler county, and has handled some important deals in that line.

Mr. Harvey was united in marriage in June, 1897, to Miss Cora Taylor, of El Dorado. Mrs. Harvey was one of Butler county's successful teachers prior to her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey have been born two children: Charles Wallace, Jr., aged eighteen, and Alice Carolyn, aged eight years.

Mr. Harvey is a Republican and takes an active part in the political affairs of Butler county, and has been chairman of the Republican County Central Committee, which position he resigned in 1912



to become chairman of the Progressive party in Butler county, and still holds that position. He is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security and the Fraternal Aid, and he and Mrs. Harvey are members of the Christian church, and he has been identified with that denomination since he was nineteen years of age. Mr. Harvey is one of the progressive business men of El Dorado and one of Butler county's substantial citizens.

**Capt. Elijah E. Harvey** was a soldier of two wars, the war with Mexico and the great Civil war. In the latter he was captain of Company B, Sixth Kansas cavalry. His company was enlisted in Appanoose county, Iowa, and they were assigned to the war on the border of Kansas and Missouri through the war, and was honorably discharged.

After the war was over, he returned to his home in Appanoose county, Iowa, and engaged in the mercantile business at Bellaire, Iowa, and Unionville, Mo. Following financial losses in these places he decided to go west, and in October, 1872, in company with several other families, we left Numa, Iowa, and came, by wagon train to Butler county. We were three weeks on the road and, like Abraham of old, brought with us our flocks and our herds, seeking "a land flowing with milk and honey."

We reached our destination in October, and first settled in a two-story, frame house on what was then the Smith claim in Bloomington township. My father began his work, as a pioneer preacher of the Church of Christ, during our stay in this house. Some of his first preaching was done in the home of J. C. Riley. Father went wherever he was called, and preached in private houses, school houses, halls, churches or groves as time, season and circumstances permitted. The outdoor meetings were held in groves, and were notable gatherings where the brethren and sisters came from all over the county, and sometimes from adjoining counties, with well filled baskets of fried chicken and other good things, such as could be obtained in those early days, to spend a day of worship, under the whispering trees of the groves, which William Cullen Bryant so fittingly designated as "God's First Temples." "Dunn's Grove," near the mill of that name, at Douglass was one of the most popular places for such gatherings. My father was a pioneer in spirit and loved the broad prairies, the flowing streams, the shady groves and the blue skies of Sunny Kansas.

In the spring of 1873 he moved into his own house, built of native lumber, on his claim in Logan township on Muddy Creek, and started in to wrest from the soil a living for himself and his family. His farming was mostly done by proxy for he was no farmer; his preaching was the work of his heart.

He was in the truest sense a soldier, and served his country well; he was known in Grand Army and political circles as Captain Harvey, and his sword and sash have graced the forms of more than one marshal of the day in civic and political parades. He was a good

citizen and served as registrar of deeds of Butler county through two terms; but the greatest battles of his life were those fought against unrighteousness, under the command of the "Prince of Peace." His work in Butler county resulted in the establishing of Churches of Christ at El Dorado, Augusta, Donglass, Leon, Haverhill, and Benton in Butler county. He did not confine his labors to that locality, but ministered to the churches in Winfield, Udall, Wellington, Belle Plains, and Eureka. In El Dorado, he baptised many people, among whom I recall Mrs. John Betts, Mrs. N. F. Frazier, Mrs. Dan Bronson, Mrs. Josh Lambdin, Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs. M. I. Morgan, Mrs. John Shelden and Charles Selig. He was held in high esteem by men of affairs of all creeds and shades of faith and by those who accepted no visible church fellowship. Like all men who accomplish good work for humanity, he had at times, heart aches over the unkind acts of false friends and unjust criticisms, from those who did not see from the same view point; but, through it all he kept himself pure and honorable in life and deed, a man generous to those in need, sympathetic with youth, open handed, sincere, hospitable and forgiving.

He died at Wichita, Kansas, May 7, 1906, at the ripe age of four score years, and his body rests in the Hillside Cemetery at El Dorado, where so much of his life work was done. His soul is returned to God, who gave it and whom he served. The old stone church on North Main street, El Dorado, is his memorial, more than the stained glass window in the new Church of Christ on Central avenue, which bears his name. He rests from his labors and his works do follow him.

Emma Harvey Johnson.

**Joseph Sharp**, of El Dorado, Kans., was for a number of years one of the extensive contractors and builders of Butler county, but in recent years has not been actively engaged in that work, although his sons, operating under the name of Sharp Brothers, are the largest contractors and builders not only in Butler county, but probably in the State of Kansas.

Joseph Sharp was born in New York in 1851. His parents, John and Zella (Payne) Sharp, natives of Yorkshire, England, died when Joseph was about eighteen months old. He had one brother, Frank, who was reared by a family named Tipton, near Columbus, Ohio, and Joseph, the subject of this sketch, grew up in the home of his cousin, near Worthington, Ohio. Joseph learned the mason and stone cutter's trade when a youth and in 1870 he and his brother came to Kansas, locating in Butler county. Frank took a claim and after proving up on it, went to Wichita, where he became a successful carriage and wagon manufacturer within a few years. He died at the age of thirty-six.

When the two brothers came to Butler county they came by rail as far as Emporia and from that point came by stage to El Dorado, landing at the latter place August 13, 1870. At that time the old trail

which the stage coach followed crossed what is now Mr. Sharp's front yard, and the early supplies and building material for El Dorado were hauled over this trail. At that time El Dorado was a small hamlet, there being practically no settlement west of the Santa Fe railroad and a part of the present court house square was occupied by a cattle corral, and the old El Dorado Hotel, remembered by early day wayfarers, stood on the corner now occupied by the Citizens Bank.

Upon arriving at El Dorado, Joseph Sharp engaged in the butchering business, his shop being located on South Main street, where Seth Frazier's office now is. Mr. Sharp also homesteaded a claim in Fairview township and managed to spend enough time on that, in connection with his butchering business, to comply with the homestead law, finally proving up and receiving his deed from President Grant. In the meantime he had been engaged in building, his first work in that line being on the construction of the Farmers and Merchants Bank building. During the last forty years he has erected a number of important buildings in El Dorado and has also built a great many bridges in Butler county. He built the Central school building, which was later destroyed by fire, the opera house drug store building, the Smith building on North Union street, the L. O. O. F. building, which was built in 1881, the Conley building and the building occupied by Ora Wyant and also a great many private residences. He built the arch bridge on North Main street, and also the bridge on South Main street, and furnished stone for the bridge near the pumping station, as well as a great many stone and concrete bridges throughout this section of the State.

In addition to his activities as a contractor and builder, Mr. Sharp is one of the pioneer horticulturists of Butler county. He has been very successful in raising small fruits, including cherries, grapes and a variety of berries, and also peaches. He started out to demonstrate that small fruit can be profitably grown in this section and has succeeded beyond a reasonable doubt. He probably holds the record as a strawberry grower in Kansas, having raised 206 bushels on one acre, which he sold at \$2 per bushel. He has twenty acres under fruit culture and his vineyard and other small fruit should act as an object lesson as well as an inspiration to the average Butler county farmer.

Mr. Sharp was united in marriage April 13, 1879, with Miss Rosa L. Burnham, who at the time of her marriage was a resident of El Dorado, but was born in Indiana and came to Kansas with her parents when she was a girl. Twelve children have been born to this union, as follows: Earl J., who was county register of deeds of Butler county for two terms, ending in 1915, resides at El Dorado; John E., a member of the firm of Sharp Brothers, contractors and builders, El Dorado; Zella, married Will Opperman, El Dorado; Charles H., a member of the firm of Sharp Brothers, El Dorado; Ray W., a member of the firm of Sharp Brothers, El Dorado; Mattie, married Nat Scribner, El Dorado; Hazel,

married Ernest Elson, El Dorado, Kans.; Nettie, married Elmer Neilson, El Dorado; Nina, Russell, Theodore, Ruth and Mildred residing at home.

The Sharp Brothers are known throughout the West as one of the extensive and reliable firms of general contractors and building engineers. They were brought up in this line of work with their father, and since the withdrawal of the senior Sharp from the active conduct of the business, the sons have gone on with the work and each year has added new developments and extended their sphere of operations. They have erected a number of large concrete bridges, doing a great deal of this class of work in Colorado, and in recent years they have built a great many expensive and modern school buildings in the State of Kansas, and at the present time are building a State college at Hays, Kans., which will cost \$100,000, besides over \$150,000 worth of other work on hand. Their experience and financial standing give the Sharp Brothers a standing in the building world equaled by few in their line.

During the forty-six years of his residence in Butler county, Mr. Sharp has seen a great many changes take place. When he came here buffalo were plentiful just a little west of El Dorado, and in the early days he frequently went buffalo hunting, and during his time killed a number of buffalo. He has killed these animals in Sumner county and his last trip was as far west as Medicine Lodge, in 1877. Antelopes, wild turkeys and prairie chickens were to be found in great numbers in Butler county when he first came here.

Mr. Sharp has been a Republican since he was a boy and has taken on active part in the local affairs of his party, and at the present time is a member of the Republican Central Committee, having served in that capacity for a number of years. He has been a delegate to most of the county conventions and has been an important factor in the local councils of his party, and for a number of years was a member of the El Dorado city council. In the early days Mr. Sharp was interested in Wichita county and recalls the county seat fight there between Coronado and Farmer City, where, as he says, they moved one hotel back and forth between the two towns until they wore it out.

Mr. Sharp is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been a member of that lodge since 1882. He also belongs to the Anti-Horse Thief Association and the Kansas Fraternal Citizens. He is one of the men who can look with pride on what he has accomplished since coming to Butler county, and he has the additional satisfaction of seeing the work which he commenced carried on in such an efficient manner by his capable sons.

**J. N. Harshman**, a prominent Butler county farmer and stockman, was born near Niles, Mich., November 29, 1854. He is a son of Moses and Elizabeth (Everharding) Harshman. The father was a native of Preble county, Ohio, and of German descent, and the mother was a Virginian. The Harshman family removed from Michigan to Indiana when

J. N. was thirteen years old. The father was a miller in early life and worked at his trade in Michigan and Indiana for some time but afterwards followed farming. In 1880 the Harshman family came to Kansas, settling in El Dorado township, south of the city of El Dorado, on the place where W. B. Thompson now lives. The place had a substantial stone house upon it which was built by a man named Snow. Here the father engaged in farming and spent the balance of his life on that place. He died November 11, 1902, and the mother passed away March 4, 1907.

J. N. Harshman has made farming and stock raising his life's study and occupation. He began farming on his own account with eighty acres and has added to his acreage from time to time and now has one of the best farms in Butler county which consists of 320 acres, a large part of his farm being fertile, productive bottom land, and he has met with a great deal of success as a grain farmer as well as a stock raiser. He is an advocate of mixed farming both as a means of soil conservation and as a means of avoiding a complete failure in any one season or in other words he is not a believer in having all his eggs in one basket.

Mr. Harshman has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Martha Smith, a native of Indiana, to whom were born three children, as follows: Addie, married Oscar Berner, Latham, Kans.; Eva, married Leslie Covert, Mulvane, Kans., and Willard, resides near Hopkins Switch, Fairview township. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Harshman married Miss Jennie Bless, a native of Illinois.

Mr. Harshman is a Republican, and takes a commendable interest in local as well as State and National affairs and is a man who keeps himself well posted in the events of the times. He has served as a member of the school board and is a member of the United Brethren church. He is public spirited and progressive, and is well known in the community for his uprightness and substantial citizenship.

**Granville P. Aikman**, El Dorado, Kans., former judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District, is not only a leading lawyer of Butler county, but is recognized as one of the able representatives of the legal profession throughout the state. He is a native of Laurel county, Kentucky, and a son of William A. and Martha A. (Graves) Aikman, both natives of Kentucky and descendants of colonial ancestors. William A. Aikman was a pioneer of Butler county, coming here in 1871, with his wife and three children, locating in Benton township. Later the family removed to Towanda township, and in 1898 the father retired, and spent the sunset of his life in El Dorado, where he died December 16, 1906, and his wife now resides in El Dorado.

Granville P. Aikman was studious from his boyhood days, and the foundation of his mental attainments was laid while he was a student at London Seminary, one of the most thorough educational institutions of the Blue Grass State. After coming to Butler county with his parents, he continued his studies for five years, when he entered the law office of Sluss & Hatten, where he read law, and was



GRANVILLE P. AIKMAN

admitted to the bar in Wichita. He immediately began the practice of his profession in El Dorado. Shortly after his admission to the bar, he was elected judge of the probate court of Butler county, and has the distinction of being the youngest man ever elected to that position in the county. He served in that capacity for four years and discharged the duties of that office in a capable manner.

Later, Mr. Aikman was elected judge of the Thirteenth judicial district, and was re-elected to that office for two terms, serving twelve years in all. As a judge he made a record equalled by few and excelled by none. His decisions evinced a profound knowledge of the law, and the supreme court frequently paid him the highest compliments for his ability as a trial judge. William Allen White said of him, "That his decisions made, necessarily upon the spur of the moment, have been sustained by reviewing courts, after months of close examination and deliberation, prove him to be an able lawyer, as well as a just judge. Few Kansas judges have such a creditable record." During the time that he was district judge, many important civil and criminal cases were tried in his court, including one of the most famous criminal cases ever tried in the country, which not only attracted wide attention in this country, but in foreign countries as well.

Since retiring from the bench, Judge Aikman has been engaged in the practice of his profession at El Dorado, where he has a large practice, and is recognized as one of the ablest lawyers of the state. Judge Aikman is recognized as a capable trial lawyer, as well as a profound jurist, and has won the reputation of being a fighter, and uses every ethical and honorable means in behalf of his clients' interest. He stands high in the councils of the Republican party, and has been active in politics for years, and bears the distinction of having written and offered in a Republican state convention, the first resolution endorsing women's suffrage in Kansas. He did this against the advice of many leading Republicans in the state, who opposed the measure and predicted that such a course would ruin him politically, but Judge Aikman presented the resolution in pursuant to his honest conviction, and it carried. He not only fought for the resolution in the convention but returned to Butler county and canvassed the county in behalf of women's suffrage, and was the only political speaker in Butler county who took that position during the campaign.

Judge Aikman married Miss Carrie Sandifer, a daughter of the late George M. Sandifer, a well known citizen of El Dorado. A more extended history of the Sandifer family appears elsewhere in this volume. To Judge and Mrs. Aikman have been born two children: Harriet and Eleanor. Judge Aikman is a member of the time honored Masonic lodge, and also holds membership in the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Judge Aikman is a genial and courteous gentleman and has many friends, social, political and professional.

**J. H. Armstrong**, a Civil war veteran and one of Butler county's substantial and well-to-do farmers and stockmen, is a native of New York. He was born near Deposit, Delaware county, New York, January 26, 1846, a son of Samuel and Hannah (Mills) Armstrong, natives of New York, and who spent their lives in Delaware county, that State.

Before J. H. Armstrong was eighteen years old he became imbued with a patriotic desire to participate in the great Civil war, which was being waged at the height of all its fury about that time, and in January, 1864, he ran away from home and enlisted at Norwich, N. Y., in Company H, Second New York heavy artillery. The organization to which he belonged was changed to infantry the following spring and in that capacity served with the Army of the Potomac. They received their baptism of fire at the battle of the Wilderness, and also participated in the battles of Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor and in the operations in front of Petersburg. They were in the battle of Hatches Run and Farmsville, and at the latter engagement half of a division was killed or wounded. Mr. Armstrong was with his company in front of Appomattox when Lee surrendered and they helped guard Lee's army until it was paroled. Mr. Armstrong had several narrow escapes incident to the life of a soldier who participated in some of the hardest fought battles of the Civil war, but escaped without a wound.

After the surrender of Lee, he went to Washington, where he was discharged by reason of a general order from the war department. He then returned to his home in Delaware county, New York, where he remained until 1872, when he went to Kalamazoo county, Michigan. After remaining there six years, he came to Kansas in 1878, locating in Spring township, Butler county, where he bought land. Shortly afterwards he returned to Michigan, when he came back to Kansas the following spring and engaged in farming and stock raising on his Spring township farm. He first bought eighty acres and from time to time added to his original holdings until he now owns four hundred and twenty-five acres of some of the finest land in Butler county. In 1898 he removed to El Dorado, where he has a fine modern residence, but he also retains his residence in Spring township, where he spends a part of his time. Although he rents his land, he continues the general supervision of the place.

Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage in New York State to Miss Henrietta Groat, now deceased, to whom were born three children: Lewis, farmer, Spring township; Nicholas, who resides in British Columbia, and Edith, now the wife of Rev. Arthur McVeigh, an Oklahoma minister. Mr. Armstrong's second wife was Mrs. Jennie Fisher, a resident of Kalamazoo county, Michigan. Two children have been born to this union: Roscoe C., a bookkeeper, Calusa, Cal., and Mildred, the wife of H. C. Ray, Wichita, Kans.

Mr. Armstrong is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and he and his wife are members of the Christian church. He is inde-



pendent in local politics, but on National issues he supports the policies and principles of the Democratic party. He is a director in the El Dorado National Bank and one of the progressive men of Butler county.

**Karl Marshall Geddes**, of El Dorado, one of Butler county's ablest lawyers and a member of the law firm of Leydig & Geddes, was born at Fountain Green, Hancock county, Illinois, April 13, 1882, a son of Cyrus M. and Lissa (Marshall) Geddes.

The Geddes family is of Scotch origin and was founded in America by James Geddes, who came with his wife and three sons to America about 1752, settling at Derry Church, Dauphin county, Pennsylvania. Karl M. Geddes, our subject, is descended from James Geddes through the following persons: William Geddes, son of James, born in Ireland in 1735, died in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, in 1789; Paul Geddes, son of William, born near Carlisle, Pa., June 9, 1768, died October 22, 1832. His brother, James, was a prominent man in Onandago county, New York, a district judge, member of Congress, and one of the promoters of the Erie canal, called Geddes' canal at the inception of construction; Thomas Geddes, son of Paul, born at Path Valley, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1805, removed to Fountain Green, Hancock county, Illinois, was commissioned colonel of the Eighty-seventh Illinois militia and served during the Mormon troubles; Cyrus M. Geddes, son of Colonel Thomas, was born at Fountain Green, Ill., February 26, 1842, and is the father of Karl M. Geddes.

Cyrus M. Geddes spent his earlier career in his native State. He came to Kansas in 1900 and settled in Butler county, where he has lived, and retired from active business cares since 1906. He gave loyal services to the Union cause during the Civil war as a member of Company A, One Hundred and Eighteenth Illinois infantry. Companies A, B, C, E and H were all formed from Hancock county volunteers and responded to the president's call of July 2, 1862. The regiment was mustered into the United States service for three years in November, 1862. Alexander Geddes, a brother of Cyrus M., was commissioned captain of Company A and served with his regiment until killed at the battle of Champion Hills, Miss. On the request of Cyrus M. to the colonel for permission to send his dead brother's sword home to his parents, he was told, "You can carry it until the end of the war," and was promoted to the captaincy of the company. This regiment saw much hard and active service. One of the most serious engagements in which it participated was the siege of Vicksburg, and it was at Champion Hills during that siege that Alexander Geddes lost his life. The regiment was mustered out of service October 1, 1865, and Mr. Geddes received his honorable discharge as captain.

Karl Marshall Geddes was educated in the public schools of Hancock county, Illinois, and at the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia. From 1900 to 1904, inclusive, he taught school and in the meantime read law in the office of Hon. G. P. Aikman and E. B. Brumback,

of El Dorado. Upon his admission to the bar at Topeka in 1905, he formed a partnership with his roommate and fellow student, R. B. Ralston, under the firm name and style of Ralston and Geddes, and opened a law office at El Dorado. In 1908 both were nominated to office by the Republican party. Mr. Ralston was nominated for probate judge and Mr. Geddes for county attorney and both were elected by flattering majorities. They were the youngest men in the State holding similar offices. In 1910 they were renominated and re-elected without opposition and served two terms in those offices. Mr. Geddes' administration of the affairs of the county attorney's office was pronounced in the enforcement of law without fear or favor. On January 1, 1910, Mr. Geddes formed a partnership with Judge C. A. Leland. In 1913, Mr. Ralston became a member of the firm of Leland, Geddes & Ralston, and on March 1, 1916, Mr. Geddes and Mr. Leydig formed the present partnership, and the firm of Leydig & Geddes is recognized as one of the leading law firms of southern Kansas and commands a large and lucrative practice.

Mr. Geddes is a member of the Kansas State Bar Association and of the Kansas County Attorneys' Association. He served as secretary of the Butler County Republican Congressional convention at Wichita in 1906. He was vice-president of the Kansas Day Club in 1911 and 1912, and in 1912 and 1913 was president of that organization. He affiliates fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

On December 24, 1905, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Geddes and Miss Gertrude Blankinship, the daughter of Asbury A. Blankinship, of El Dorado.

**M. S. Munson**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer business man whose activities in the industrial world, perhaps, did as much to develop Butler county in the early days as any other man. M. S. Munson was born in Sheffield, Mass., July 5, 1842. He was a son of Stephen and Nancy (Nash) Munson, natives of Massachusetts, who spent their lives in that State and the old Munson homestead, which has been in the family for generations, is now owned by a brother of M. S. Munson.

The Munson family is of English descent, and they trace their ancestry back to the peage of that country. The first record that we have of the Munson family in America is at Hartford, Conn., in 1637, where a record of Thomas Munson, who was the founder of the family in America, appeared. He was prominent in the Piquot war and a number of his descendants were conspicuous for their service in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. Members of the Munson family have been prominent as soldiers, statesmen and professional men. Nancy Nash, the mother of Mr. Munson, was born in Connecticut, although a descendant of old Virginia stock, Governor Nash, one of the colonial governors of Virginia, having been a direct ancestor of hers.

M. S. Munson grew to manhood in his native town in Massachusetts and was attending school when the Civil war broke out, and on September 22, 1862, he enlisted and on October 28, 1862, he was mustered into service as a member of Company H, Forty-ninth regiment Massachusetts infantry. He served throughout the Civil war, being located at New Orleans for a time, and his regiment was discharged and mustered out of service, September 1, 1863.

In June, 1869, he went to Chicago and later engaged in the commission business for S. P. Brownell, South Water street, Chicago, and for seven years was a member of the Board of Trade of that city. For several years he had the contract for furnishing the street car company of Chicago, of which John Lake was president at that time, with grain and hay for their horses. He first came to Kansas in 1875 in connection with his Chicago business. He came here to arrange for pasture for broken down street car horses, and was at Burlingame for a time and in 1876 operated in Council Grove, where he was buying corn for the Chicago market. In 1877 he came to Butler county and engaged in the lumber business at El Dorado in partnership with Capt. J. T. Anderson. At that time there were no railroads in Butler county and all their lumber had to be hauled from Florence. However, the railroads were built the following year and about one year later Mr. Munson bought his partner's interest and conducted the business alone until he retired. He also handled coal as well as lumber and general builders' supplies and bought grain.

In addition to his vast business enterprises he owned a farm of 640 acres in Chelsea township, where he made a specialty of raising Galloway cattle. His widow still owns this place. He exported the first car load of kafir corn ever shipped from Butler county. This was in 1900. He was also active in the introduction of alfalfa, which has proven to be one of the most profitable crops in Butler county. During his business career in Butler county, when many of the settlers were hard up, Mr. Munson sold them lumber with which to build their homes and waited for his pay. He also loaned a great deal of money to the settlers and in that way made it possible for many a poor man to get a start in life that in many instances led to the accumulation of a fortune. In his dealings he was lenient with his delinquent customers and often waited for a number of years and never foreclosed a mortgage. He had the confidence of the people and his losses from bad accounts were very few, notwithstanding the fact that he was not inclined to press his claims. He bought the land for the Santa Fe Railroad Company where the depot is now located, and it was through his efforts that the Santa Fe switch east of the depot was put in. The railroad company had been making an effort to place this switch there for several years and failed. Mr. Munson completed this piece of track one morning before breakfast, and it is still there. He was one of the right-of-way appraisers of the Orient railroad at the time of his death. He was an un-

usually successful business man. He loved horses and always kept the best. He was a close student of men and affairs. He was a thorough home man and a great reader and had a style of dry humor which sparkled with philosophy. He was a man of keen foresight and good judgment and his judgment was recognized by those who knew him, he often being called upon to arbitrate differences which arose between his acquaintances. He died October 10, 1906. The estimate in which he was held by those who knew him is best expressed in the language of Edward P. Ellett, an old friend and associate, who said of him, "He was a good fellow, a good citizen and a square man."

On April 9, 1878, M. S. Munson and Genevieve Mather were united in marriage at Council Grove, Kans. She was born in Kansas City, Mo., while her parents were temporarily residing there en route to Kansas. Mrs. Munson belongs to one of the historic pioneer families of Kansas and is a descendant of colonial ancestry. She is a daughter of J. P. and Sallie (Deming) Mather, natives of New York, the father of Jefferson county and the mother of Otsego county. The Mather family is of English descent and trace their ancestry back to the twelfth century in the mother country. This family was founded in New England, according to the first official record, in 1623, and many conspicuous members of the Mather family appear in the early history of New England, among them being Cotton Mather, a prominent figure in American literature during colonial days.

J. P. Mather and Sallie Deming were married at Spring Creek, Warren county, Pennsylvania, February 11, 1841. They lived in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and owned land on the present site of the city of Corry, making their home in that locality until 1857. The father was extensively engaged in the lumber business and rafted lumber down the Ohio river to Cincinnati for a number of years. In 1857 he had a great amount of lumber on hand, owing to his inability to run rafts on the river the two preceding years on account of low water. Being unable to sell his lumber in Cincinnati when he reached that point, he went on down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi, and after selling most of his lumber at St. Louis, he went up the Missouri river to Leavenworth, where he sold the first shingles to be sold in Kansas, and after disposing of his lumber he bought machinery for a flouring and saw mill, which he shipped from St. Louis by river transportation to Westport, which is now the site of Kansas City. He had determined to haul his mill machinery to Council Grove and build a mill near the Kaw Indian reservation, but when he reached Westport the Border war was raging with such fierceness that he decided to remain there for a time. However, the following year, or in 1860, he continued his journey with his mill machinery and erected a mill at Council Grove, according to his plan. This was the most distant mill west located in Kansas and the third one to be built in the State, the other two being at Lawrence and Fort Scott.

The Mather mill at Council Grove on the Neosho river was a substantial three story building, built of brick, and was located near the old Kaw mission, the brick being manufactured on the east side of the river. When this mill was built it was a great wonder to the 3,000 Kaw Indians who lived on the reservation there and they called Mr. Mather Ta-poos-ka. Mr. Mather also built a twelve-room house in the vicinity of the mill, which in those days was considered a mansion. The house is still standing and is in a good state of preservation. This is one of the historic places in Kansas. Mrs. Mather, who was active in the early suffrage movement in Kansas, entertained in this house, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Kady Stanton and other prominent women of the times. J. P. Mather spent the last six years of his life in Emporia, where he died on May 8, 1905, aged ninety years, and his wife departed this life December 13, 1908, aged eighty-eight years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Munson were born the following children: Wilbur, operating the Chelsea township ranch; Elmer, also on the Chelsea township ranch; Arthur, an electrician in the employ of the Pacific Electric railway in Los Angeles, Cal.; Inez, at home, and Mahlon A., a student in Leland Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.

Mrs. Munson had an opportunity to observe much of the early life in Kansas, living in such close proximity to the Kaw Indian reservation, she had an opportunity to study the "Noble Red Man" in his native heath, and she has had many exciting experiences with Indians. She has seen three thousand Cheyenne redskins on the warpath, and at one time a drunken Indian came to the Mather home and threaten to scalp her, demanding \$5 and some flour. Her sister covered the Indian with a revolver, whereupon the inebriated child of the forest departed. Mrs. Munson could speak the Kaw language fluently, and knows a lot about the traits of Indians. When she was a girl she owned an Indian pony and was some rider, too.

Mrs. Munson is a woman of unusual ability and takes a prominent part in the social and civic life of El Dorado and Butler county. She is a member of the W. M. B. Club and has been president and also treasurer of the local club and was the first recording secretary of the Eighth District Federation of Woman's Clubs. She was auditor of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs. She was the first to introduce civic beautifying in El Dorado, offering prizes for the best results and through her efforts the Chautauqua was established here. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is a Republican.

Mrs. Munson served on the first woman's jury in the District Court of Butler county. This jury returned a verdict after three hours of deliberation on a case which had been previously tried before a jury of men who had failed to agree. Thus the theory of the dark ages that women do not agree as well as men was exploded.

**Henry W. Schumacher**, a prominent member of the Butler county bar, has practiced law in El Dorado for thirty-two years, and during that time he has established a well earned reputation as an able, conscientious and successful lawyer. Mr. Schumacher was born in New Richmond, Clermont county, Ohio, March 19, 1858, and is a son of Henry W. and Magdalena (Wetzel) Schumacher. The father was a native of Oldenberg, Germany; he was a sea faring man, and made his first voyage to America about 1825, and about 1840 settled permanently in Philadelphia, Pa. Magdalena Wetzel was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and immigrated to America with her parents who settled in Philadelphia when she was three years of age. She was reared in that city, where she was married to Mr. Schumacher, and in 1840 they removed to Ohio, settling at New Richmond, Clermont county, where they reared their family and spent the remainder of their lives. The mother died in 1883, and the father survived about one year, when he passed away.

Henry W. Schumacher, whose name introduces this sketch, was one of a family of eight children, three of whom are now living, as follows: Lena, unmarried, resides at New Richmond, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Yeager of Leavenworth, Kans., and Henry W. Mr. Schumacher spent his boyhood days in New Richmond, Ohio, and was graduated from the New Richmond high school, May 17, 1878. He then attended the Clermont Academy, Clermontville, Ohio, after which he taught school and read law at Batavia, Ohio. He was admitted to the bar, September 10, 1879, and engaged in the practice of his profession at New Richmond, Ohio, and while thus engaged he served one year as city attorney. In the fall of 1882 he came to Kansas and taught school that winter in Morris county; in 1883 he came to Butler county, and during the school year of 1883-84, he was principal of the Douglass schools, and in 1884, he located at El Dorado, where he has since been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession.

Mr. Schumacher is a close student of the law and is the possessor of a well balanced legal mind. He has gone on the theory laid down by eminent legal authorities, that, "The law is a jealous mistress," and has never taken on any side lines, but has devoted himself exclusively to the practice of law, and his career is an exemplification that his theory was correct. Mr. Schumacher has served two terms as county attorney of Butler county and has served several years as city alderman and is a member of the El Dorado city council at the present time. He is a Democrat, prominent in the councils of his party, and for years has taken an active part in local politics; he has served as chairman of the Democratic central committee, and has been a delegate to many county and State conventions. In 1913 he was his party's candidate for district judge of the Thirteenth judicial district, and made a remarkably good showing in that he reduced the normal Republican majority to about one-half.



HENRY W. SCHUMACHER





Mr. Schumacher was united in marriage at El Dorado, Kans., to Miss Minnie L. Lafferty, a native of DeWitt county, Illinois, and a daughter of James and Julia (Feris) Lafferty. Mrs. Schumacher came to Butler county, Kansas, with her mother, who later returned to Illinois, her father having died when she was a small child in DeWitt, Ill. To Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher have been born two children: Allene, married R. W. Brown, an El Dorado merchant, and Julia, cashier and circulation manager of The El Dorado Daily "Republican." Mr. Schumacher has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for thirty-three years, and also holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Maccabees, Royal Neighbors, and the Kansas Fraternal Citizens. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

**George W. Tolle**, secretary of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Butler county, has been a resident of this county for forty-six years and has seen many changes since he was a passenger on the old stage coach that landed him in the little town of El Dorado in 1870. When he came here there were only two or three houses west of where the Santa Fe railroad is now located, in the settlement of El Dorado. George W. Tolle is a native of Illinois. He was born at the old town of Nelson, now extinct, Coles county, in 1849, and is a son of C. J. T. and Mary (Wheeler) Tolle, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Virginia. On his paternal side Mr. Tolle is a descendant of colonial ancestry of English origin. His great grandfather Tolle was a Revolutionary soldier and his grandfather served in the Black Hawk war. C. J. T. Tolle, George W.'s father, was a Methodist minister and spent his life in the ministry in southern Illinois. His wife also died in that State when George was a child.

George W. Tolle was educated in the public schools of Illinois and McKendry College, Lebanon, Ill. He left college at the close of his junior year and would have graduated the following year had he continued his course. In 1870 he came to Kansas. At that time the Santa Fe railroad was not completed as far west as Emporia. He came directly to El Dorado by way of Emporia, and was first employed as a clerk for J. C. Fraker & Company. Charles Folks was the junior member of that company and had charge of the El Dorado business, Mr. Fraker residing in Emporia. Mr. Tolle remained with them about two years, when he went to Douglass, Kans., and six months later returned to El Dorado and entered into partnership with H. H. Gardner, now deceased, under the firm name of Gardner & Tolle. They conducted a general mercantile business on South Main street in what was known as the stone store, near the corner of Central avenue, where Hitchcock's store is now located. This partnership continued to do business four or five years, when Mr. Gardner engaged in the banking business, and Mr. Tolle conducted the business alone until 1899, when he was elected county treasurer for a three-year term, and re-elected for a term of two years. He then served as deputy county treasurer for four years, when

he was again elected county treasurer for a term of two years. About a year after finishing that term of office he engaged in a real estate and farm loan business in El Dorado and has built up a very satisfactory business in that line. In 1914 he accepted the secretaryship of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Butler county, and since that time has capably conducted the affairs of that office in connection with his private business. He is also a justice of the peace, having been appointed by Governor George Hodges and elected to that office at the expiration of the term for which he was appointed.

Mr. Tolle was married in 1875 to Miss Mary E. Newbury, of Milton township, Butler county. She is a daughter of Walter Newbury and was born at New Albany, Wis. Her parents were natives of New York and early settlers in Butler county. The father died in 1911, aged eighty-three years, and her mother is well and active at the age of eighty-six years. To Mr. and Mrs. Tolle have been born eight children: Rena, wife of Dr. R. B. Earp, El Dorado; Ralph Preston, teller of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, El Dorado; George W., Jr., conductor on the Orient & Mexican railway, and resides at Wichita; Harry M., salesman for a wholesale millinery house, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mary Esto, wife of W. H. Noble, El Dorado; Beth, married W. E. Bryant, Wichita; Ruth is teacher in the El Dorado schools, and Luther is a clerk in a furniture store at El Dorado.

Mr. Tolle is a member of the Masonic lodge and is a Republican. He and Mrs. Tolle are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**C. A. Aikman**, of El Dorado, is probably the most extensive seed and grain dealer in Butler county. He is a native son of Butler county, born in Benton township, July 5, 1874, and belongs to one of the prominent pioneer families of this section. His parents, William Allison and Martha Angeline (Graves) Aikman were both natives of Kentucky. The father was born in Laurel county, and was a son of John Aikman, a native of Carlisle, Pa. John was a son of Alexander Aikman, a native of Scotland, who came to America with two of his brothers, before the Revolutionary war, and was killed at the battle of Brandywine while fighting for American independence. His son, John, grandfather of C. A. Aikman, located in Kentucky about 1795, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a devout Christian and lived an exemplary life.

William Allison Aikman grew to manhood in Laurel county, Kentucky, where he resided when the Civil war broke out. He remained loyal to the Union and entered the employ of the Government in a responsible civil capacity at Camp Dick Robison in charge of the blacksmith work there, and had the supervision of several men. At the close of the war he engaged in the drug business in Kentucky, and in 1871 came to Kansas with his wife and three children, locating in Benton township, Butler county, where he took up government land, and followed farming and stock raising until 1883, when he removed to

Towanda township, continuing in the same line of business until 1898, when he came to El Dorado, where he lived retired until his death, December 16, 1906. His wife, Martha Angeline Graves, was born in Madison county, Kentucky, and now resides in El Dorado, and is remarkably vigorous, both in mind and body, for a woman of her advanced age. Her father, William Graves, was a prominent Virginia planter before the Civil war, but like many other of that war-blighted district, saw his fortune vanish in that great conflict. Mrs. Aikman was the youngest of a family of nine children and is the only one now living.

C. A. Aikman is the youngest of four sons born to William Allison and Martha Angeline (Graves) Aikman. The others, all of whom were born in Kentucky, are as follows: G. P., attorney, El Dorado, Kans.; C. L., attorney, El Dorado, Kans., and J. S., a wholesale merchant at San Francisco, Cal. C. A. Aikman received a good common school education, which was supplemented by a business course in the Wichita Commercial College. He began life as a farmer, and in 1898 engaged in buying and shipping field seed and grain and at the same time continuing his farming operations. In 1903 his seed and grain business developed to such proportions that it required all of his attention. About that time he purchased the old Christian church on North Main street, El Dorado, and converted it into a warehouse and erected an office in connection, and added coal to his other business. His business continued to enlarge, and in 1910 he built an elevator on the line of the Missouri Pacific railroad in El Dorado.

Mr. Aikman was married September 20, 1905, to Miss Lucinda Green, a native of Sumner county, Kansas, and a daughter of D. M. Green, a Kentuckian, and early settler in Kansas, who now resides in El Dorado. To Mr. and Mrs. Aikman have been born two children: Conrad A., Jr., aged nine, and Daniel Robert John, aged four. Mr. Aikman is a Republican, but does not take an active part in political affairs. His genial manner and straightforward business methods have won him many friends in both the business and social sides of life. Mr. Aikman has a literary inclination and as a relaxation from the dull grind of every day business life, he frequently writes verse for his own entertainment, and many of his short poems are real gems of literature.

**R. H. Julian**, one of the pioneer merchants of Butler county, now engaged in the drug business at El Dorado, came to this county forty years ago. Mr. Julian was born at Hanover, in the northwestern part of Cook county, Illinois, in 1851. His parents, Richard and Eliza (Thompson) Julian, were natives of England and Canada, respectively. They located in Cook county in 1849 and lived in Chicago for a short time, and when the epidemic of cholera broke out in 1850 they left Chicago and located in Hanover township, Cook county. In 1852 they removed to Elgin, Ill., where the father worked at his trade, which was that of a stone mason, during the remainder of his life; his wife also died in Elgin.

R. H. Julian received his education in the public schools of Elgin and grew to manhood in that city. In 1876 he came to Kansas, locating at El Dorado, where he obtained a position with Dr. Gordon. About six months later, or in September, 1876, he went to work in Dr. Gordon's drug store, where he learned the drug business. In 1879 he went to Towanda to open and take charge of a branch store for Dr. Gordon, and remained there about six months. Mr. Julian says that brief period was the most pleasant part of his career, and he treasures many fond recollections of the pleasant days and long evenings spent with his newly found friends and acquaintances of Towanda, many of whom are still living in the county, whom he numbers among his staunchest friends.

After spending about six months at Towanda, he returned to El Dorado and in 1880 entered the employ of W. Y. Miller as a clerk in his drug store, remaining in that capacity until July 26, 1886. He then entered the employ of the firm of McKenzie & Evans, El Dorado druggists, until 1890, when he purchased their stock and has since conducted a drug store in El Dorado. When Mr. Julian purchased the business of McKenzie & Evans the store was located on West Central avenue, almost directly across the street from his present place of business in the Opera House block. He purchased the property where his store is now located in 1892, and moved his business into that store building in 1894, at No. 114 West Central avenue. The building is a substantial two-story brick structure with a basement, which he rents for a barber shop.

Mr. Julian was united in marriage to Miss Minnie L., daughter of Dr. J. P. and Martha (Rice) Gordon. Dr. Gordon was one of the very earliest physicians to locate in El Dorado. He came to Kansas from Mount Vernon, Iowa, where he had practiced his profession for a number of years, and upon coming to this State, practiced for a time in Topeka, Auburn and Emporia, and in 1868 located here. He died in 1911, at the close of an active and successful professional career, and his widow now resides in El Dorado. Notwithstanding that she has reached the advanced age of eighty years, she is as keen in mind and as active physically as the average person of fifty or sixty.

Mr. Julian is a member of the Masonic Lodge, of which he is past master; he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been identified with that organization for over forty years. He is also a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Anti-Horse Thief Association. He is a communicant of the Episcopal church, and for a number of years has been junior and senior warden and treasurer of his congregation.

Mr. Julian has various interests in some of the leading commercial enterprises of El Dorado. He is a stockholder in the El Dorado Electric & Refrigerator Company and also a director and stockholder in the Butler County Telephone Company. He may be well classified as one of the old landmarks among the merchants of Butler county.

**Cyrus Austin Leland**, of El Dorado, a successful lawyer and one of Butler county's most prominent men of affairs, was born at Ottawa, La Salle county, Illinois, August 11, 1843.

Mr. Leland was educated in the public schools of Ottawa, Ill., at Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass., and at Yale University, and graduated at the last named institution in the class of 1865, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was prepared for law in his father's office, and was admitted to the bar at Ottawa, Ill., in 1867. From 1867 to 1877, he practiced law in Ottawa. In 1877 he came to El Dorado, Kansas, with his brother, Lorenzo Leland, Jr., and together established themselves in practice under the firm style of Leland & Leland. Lorenzo returned to Ottawa in 1879, and from that time until 1888, our subject practiced alone. In the latter year he was elected on the Democratic ticket to be District Judge of the Thirteenth judicial district and served in that capacity from 1888 to 1891, inclusive. He had previously served as city attorney and during Governor Glick's administration he was appointed a regent of the Kansas State Agricultural College. In 1892 he formed a partnership with Hon. C. L. Harris under the firm title, Leland & Harris. That partnership existed nearly eighteen years, or until dissolved in December, 1909. In January, 1910, he formed a partnership with K. M. Geddes under the firm name of Leland & Geddes, and later R. B. Ralston became the junior member of the firm, which was known as Leland, Geddes & Ralston. This firm was dissolved on April 1, 1916, since which time Mr. Leland has been practicing alone.

Judge Leland is a charter member of the Kansas State Bar Association is a director of and attorney for the Farmers and Merchants National Bank at El Dorado.

Mr. Leland was married in December, 1870, to Nellie A. Thompson, his step-sister. To Mr. and Mrs. Leland have been born five children, of whom three survive. Two daughters, Flora and Cecil, are well-known in art circles and for a time maintained a water color studio in Kansas City, Mo. Cecil Leland, now the wife of Benjamin F. McKinnon, of Washington, D. C., was graduated in the literary department of Kansas University, and her sister concluded a five-year course at the Art Institute in Chicago, and was a member of the Chase Class at Florence, Italy. Cyrus A. Leland, Jr., graduated from the electrical engineering department of the University of Kansas with the class of 1910, and is now superintendent of the electrical department of the Atchison Railway, Light and Power Company, Atchison, Kans.

**Anna A. Perkins, M. D.**, El Dorado, Kans., is a prominent member of the medical profession of Butler county. Dr. Perkins was born near Amboy, Ill., in 1871, and when six years of age came to Kansas with her parents, Ansel A. and Orilla (Van Hausen) Perkins. The father was a native of Connecticut, and the mother was born near Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. After their marriage they removed to Illinois in the sixties, where they remained until 1877, when they

came to Harvey county, Kansas, and located on a farm about nine miles northwest of Halstead. In 1881 they removed to Halstead and a short time afterwards to Newton, where the mother died in 1887. Some years later the father removed to North Dakota, but returned to Illinois, where he died in 1910. They were the parents of the following children: Floyd, Coldwater, Kans.; Ford L., Newton, Kans.; Hattie married L. C. Helbie, Coldwater, Kans.; Lida married B. P. Philip, and Anna A., the subject of this sketch.

Dr. Perkins received a good common school education in the public schools of Harvey county, and began teaching when she was sixteen years of age, and after teaching five terms took a course in nursing in Axtell Hospital, Newton. She then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Kansas City, Kans., where she was graduated with a degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1897, and immediately opened an office in El Dorado and began the practice of her profession. She has been uniformly successful in her professional work from the start, and for a number of years has ranked as one of the leading physicians of Butler county. Her practice is of a general nature and extends over a large area surrounding El Dorado as well as in the city of El Dorado. She is a close student of the science of her profession and aims to keep posted in the rapid strides that are constantly being made in that most important of all professions.

Since she began the practice, Dr. Perkins has taken post-graduate work in the Post-Graduate Medical College of Chicago, and in 1914 she was a member of a party of American physicians who made a clinical tour of Europe, visiting the leading hospitals of the principal cities of the Old World. Before embarking on their trip for Europe they visited the principal hospitals of Philadelphia and New York. While in Europe they visited Paris, Berne, Zurich, Munich, Vienna, Dresden, Leipsic, Berlin, Jena, Heidelberg, Frankfort on the Maine, Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool, and from there sailed for New York. While on this tour they saw some of the most eminent surgeons of the world operate. Notable among whom was the man who is now chief surgeon of the German army, and another is now chief surgeon of the Austrian army. This was an interesting and instructive trip and of inestimable value to those who were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to take it.

Dr. Perkins is a member of the County, State and American Medical Association and at various times has held all the different offices of the county association. She is a member of the El Dorado school board.

**J. W. Watkins**, a well known carpenter and contractor of Potwin, is a native of Virginia. He was born in Taylor county that State, March 4, 1863, and is a son of Samuel and Susan (Osborn) Watkins, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Welsh and Scotch descent, and the latter of French and English ancestry. This branch of the Watkins family was founded in New England in Colonial times and later they settled in

Pennsylvania. Samuel and Susan (Osborn) Watkins were the parents of thirteen children, of whom J. W. was the tenth in order of birth. A brother of J. W., William, enlisted at President Lincoln's first call for troops during the Civil war, and served in a West Virginia regiment. He served under Generals Hooker and McDowell, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea and also served in the Army of the Potomac for a time under Grant.

J. W. Watkins was reared on the home farm in Virginia, and in early life learned the carpenter trade with his older brother, Richard, who was an expert workman. The father died in 1874, when J. W. was about nine years of age, and in 1882 the mother with her five children came to Butler county, Kansas, and settled on a farm one and one-half miles east of Potwin. One son, William, had preceded the family to Butler county, coming here in 1870, and homesteaded a quarter section in the vicinity of Potwin after coming to Butler county with his mother, J. W. Watkins, worked with his brother Richard, who at that time was the leading contractor and builder in and around Potwin, and eventually J. W. became a contractor and builder on his own account and since that time has successfully followed that line of work. He has built some of the best residences in Butler county, as well as many high class residences in Wichita and other places.

Mr. Watkins was married in 1898 to Miss Zooa Ella Poe, a daughter of Cornelius and Sarah (Rogers) Poe, natives of West Virginia and very early settlers in Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Watkins have been born the following children: Arthur Preston, Frederick Samuel Roger Williams, Elizabeth and Joseph Wade. Mr. Watkins is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and his political affiliations are with the Democratic party. During his career as a builder, he has won a reputation for honest and reliable work throughout this section of the State, which coupled with his high class workmanship places him in a class where much ordinary competition is eliminated.

**I. A. Zimmerman**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Plum Grove township, is a native of Ohio. He was born near Urbana, Champaign county, October 19, 1848, and is a son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Miller) Zimmerman. The Zimmerman family is an old American family of German descent. Isaac Zimmerman, the father of I. A., was a son of George and Barbara (Norman) Zimmerman, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Virginia. They were married in Rockingham county, Virginia, and shortly afterward, migrated to Ohio. They drove from Virginia to Ohio with ox teams, and settled in the wilderness of Ohio, which was then a new and undeveloped State. They built a little cabin on the banks of Owen creek, and shortly afterwards, removed to the Nettle creek bottom. Here George Zimmerman built his pioneer log cabin, and cleared away a little ground where he followed farming of the primitive, pioneer nature of that day. This was considerably over one hundred years ago, and that same place is still

the home of one of George Zimmerman's descendants, being owned by Isaac Zimmerman, a brother of our subject, and here is where I. A., the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood. He was one of a family of eight children.

Mr. Zimmerman came to Kansas in 1883, and the following year, settled in Butler county, and bought half a section of land in Fairmont township. He sold this later, and afterwards bought another half section in Plum Grove township, which is his present home. This is one of the best farms in Plum Grove township, and Mr. Zimmerman is recognized as one of the successful stockmen and general farmers of Butler county.

On April 28, 1872, Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Martha Comar, who died October 19, 1878, leaving two children: A. G., El Dorado, and Alice, wife of Joseph Sicklebower, El Dorado. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Zimmerman married Mary Barger, who died January 19, 1880. No children were born to this union. January 28, 1882, Mr. Zimmerman married M. M. Yates, a native of Miami county, Ohio, and to this union the following children have been born: Carrie, the wife of James Dooley, Newton, Kans.; Nettie, wife of W. M. Day, Kansas City, Mo.; Lutie, wife of Jason Markee, Butler county; John, resides at home with his father, and Lydia, wife of P. M. Puckette, farmer, Plum Grove township.

Mr. Zimmerman is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Peabody Lodge No. 113, and his wife is a member of the Rebekahs; and politically he is a Democrat.

**T. P. Mannion**, the capable and efficient postmaster of El Dorado, Kans., is a Butler county pioneer, coming here when he was a child, one year of age, with his parents. T. P. Mannion was born in Macon City, Mo., March 2, 1866, and is a son of John and Margaret Mannion, natives of County Galway, Ireland. The father came to America in 1848, and the mother in 1849. They were married at St. Louis, Mo., in 1856, and for a few years after their marriage made their home in St. Louis, and the father followed steamboating on the Mississippi river, between New Orleans and as far north as navigation extended, until 1861. He then engaged in farming, near Macon, Mo., until 1867, when he removed to Kansas, and located in Butler county, settling on 160 acres of land, nine miles southwest of El Dorado, in what is now Spring township. He was probably the first man to prove up on his homestead in that township, and an unusual thing about the Mannion homestead, is that it was never mortgaged, nor never on the delinquent tax list, which may be taken as an index to the thrift and industry of John Mannion and his family.

At the time that the Mannion family settled in Butler county, the country was in a wild and unbroken state, and the broad prairies of Butler county seemed to be in about the same condition that the hand





*J. Mannion,*



of the Creator had left them. There were still many Indians in this vicinity, and the Mannion family had just cause to fear uprisings of hostile Indians, along the border at that early day. The early day prairie fires, which, now and then, swept over the plains like the wind, was another source of great danger to the early pioneers who settled here about the same time.

The first home of the Mannion family was a pioneer log house, without a floor and with a straw roof, which was on the place when the father bought it. This makeshift of a home, however, was replaced by a more pretentious structure, built of hewed logs and well finished, a few months after the family settled here, and in the early days this residence was one of the best built in that section of the country at that time. About twelve years later a large frame residence was built, which is still standing. It was the scene of many early day social gatherings, such as dances, parties, etc., and some of the early church services were held here. Rev. Father Schurtz conducted services here at an early day. He was one of the pioneer priests of this section and is remembered as a splendid Christian gentleman.

T. P. Mannion has a store of interesting early day reminiscences, which he relates in a most interesting and entertaining manner. He remembers of seeing the Indians roaming over the plains in bands of varying numbers, at different times, and he also recalls the time when hunting parties went just a little west of Butler county on buffalo hunting expeditions, and recalls buffalo having been killed in the vicinity of Wichita. His first trip to Wichita was in 1876, on an occasion when his father and his sister, Kate, and himself drove to Wichita with two loads of corn which they exchanged for seed wheat. Mr. Mannion's first schooling in Butler county was in a log building, without any floor, the school being taught by Rev. Timothy Grow.

When the Mannion family settled in Butler county, Emporia was the nearest trading point of any importance, and the father frequently made the trip there for supplies, and sometimes he would be gone three weeks at a time on one of these trips. On one of these trips, he broke a wagon axle and had to go for miles to get it repaired, which required three days, and a new axle cost him fifteen dollars. We, of the present generation, in view of all modern methods of economizing time and annihilating space, can scarcely conceive of a condition of this kind, yet this is a fact, and such were the conditions which confronted the resolute men and women who laid the foundation for Butler county and the great progress which followed. This is not only true in Butler county but in hundreds of other counties, all over the great West.

John Mannion deserves to be classed as one of the pioneers of Butler county, who did his part nobly and well. He became a successful farmer and stock raiser and during his long career in Butler county he built up a reputation for honesty and integrity that will remain for many years to become a monument to his memory. He believed in

square dealing. He died July 30, 1908, honored and respected by all who knew him. His widow now resides near Augusta, and belongs to that type of noble pioneer women who adapted themselves to the early day pioneer conditions, and furnished the husbands and children with the inspiration, without which the hardships and vicissitudes of those early times would have been unendurable.

John and Margaret Mannion were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Kate Shea, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Lipscomb, Spring township; Mrs. Maggie Cody, Spring township; Mrs. Lizzie Armstrong, Spring township; T. P., the subject of this sketch; J. J., Augusta, Kans.; W. H., Lawrence, Kans., and J. C., Spring township.

T. P. Mannion was reared to manhood on the home place in Spring township, and after receiving a very good common school education, took a course in the Southwestern Business College at Wichita, Kans. About the time he completed his course of study, he was employed as a grain buyer for the Peavey Grain Company, with headquarters at Greensburg, Kans., and for three years followed that line of work. In 1894, he returned to the home farm in Spring township, where he was engaged in farming until February 1, 1904, when he came to El Dorado and engaged in the grocery business. He sold this business shortly afterwards and was employed in the insurance business in El Dorado for a time when he engaged in the insurance, real estate and loan business for himself and was successfully engaged in that line of work, to which he devoted his entire time and attention, until April 6, 1915, when he was appointed postmaster by President Wilson. However, Mr. Mannion still owns the insurance, loan and real estate agency which is conducted by his manager, Mr. Williams. Since receiving the appointment as postmaster, Mr. Mannion has been actively engaged in the duties of that office, the constant increasing patronage of which requires vigilant exercise of good business judgment and foresight, to meet the demands of the business. However, Mr. Mannion is equal to the occasion and is always on the job, and El Dorado has a postmaster who is a postmaster in fact, and the office is not a sinecure, like similar positions are in many places. Mr. Mannion believes in the doctrine that public office is a public trust, and is fulfilling the letter of his belief.

Mr. Mannion was united in marriage February 5, 1896 with Miss Mary Hannon, a daughter of Richard and Mary Hannon, Butler county pioneers. To Mr. and Mrs. Mannion have been born the following children: May M., a graduate of the El Dorado High School and now stenographer in the law office of Kramer & Benson; William R.; Agnes Pauline, and T. P., Jr., all of whom are now attending school.

Mr. Mannion is a Democrat, and since reaching his majority has supported the policies and principles of the Democratic party. He has been active in both State and local politics, and he deserves as much, or more credit, than any other man in Butler county in maintaining the organization of his party in Butler county during some of the gloomy

periods of the past. He is a member of the Catholic church and a member of the board of trustees of the local parish, and has also been a liberal contributor to his church and is entitled to no small amount of credit for the establishment and maintenance of the local Catholic church.

**Osborne Mooney** was born in Miami county, Ohio, October 11, 1827. At an early age, his father removed to Allen county, Indiana, locating near the village of Hunteertown, about ten miles from Ft. Wayne. There Mr. Mooney lived until the fall of 1872, when he came with his family to Kansas, settling on a farm on the West Branch of the Whitewater, two and one-half miles west of Towanda. This farm is still owned by his family, and was occupied by them until 1897, when Mr. Mooney retired from active life, and moved to El Dorado, where he lived until his death, February 2, 1908.

On August 23, 1857, Mr. Mooney was married in Allen county, Indiana, to Adelaide Kikley, also of that place. To this union were born three daughters: Frances E., Mrs Volney P. Mooney of El Dorado; Harriett E.; Mrs. William R. Green, of Towanda; and Nevada B., Mrs. William B. Gaskins, of Portland, Ore.

Mr. Mooney was pre-eminently a farmer, having followed that occupation all of the active years of his life. He was especially successful in grafting fruit trees and producing budded fruit. This was his greatest interest. He was also a remarkable worker among bees. These, he went among fearlessly, holding conversation with them as he wrought. Had Mr. Mooney lived in a later day, he would probably have specialized in one of these professions with great profit.

Mr. Mooney enlisted in August, 1862, and with his two brothers and three brothers-in-law, served to the end of the war. His military life is epitomized in this: He enlisted in Allen county, Indiana, August 5, 1862, in Company C, Eighty-eighth regiment Indiana infantry. He participated in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Hoover's Gap, Tullahoma, Hillsboro, and Elk River, Tennessee; Dug Gap and Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Grenville and Ringgold; marched with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and was in engagements at Buzzard Roost, Resacca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta and Utoy Creek; was with Sherman in his famous march to the sea and was mustered out June 7, 1865. He was wounded at Perryville, Kentucky, by a gun shot wound in the mouth, breaking out his teeth and parts of his jaw bone. At Atlanta, he received a wound in the right shoulder, the ball passing through and lodging in his left breast, where it remained. He was bayoneted in the elbow at Kenesaw Mountain, causing a permanent injury, the arm being dislocated. He was of military stock. His grandfather, Freeman Mooney, was in the Revolutionary war under General Washington.

He was a Christian for over sixty years, and at the time of his death was a member of the Christian Church at Towanda. He was a member of W. H. L. Wallace Post 66, Grand Army of the Republic,

and of Patmos Lodge No. 97, Masons. During his last illness his only desire seemed to be to have his wife, children and grandchildren at his bedside. All except one grandchild were present, one was unavoidably detained. His regret when called from this life was not the severing of the brittle thread of this existence, but was the cutting asunder of those ties of love and affection that bound him to those whose presence and companionship made life's labors a pleasure rather than a burden. In every relation of life Mr. Mooney was exemplary, a thoroughly good man, a patriot, soldier, citizen, husband, father, friend and neighbor. He was honored widely as he was known.

**W. H. Sluss**, of El Dorado township, is one of the pioneer cattle men of Butler county and since locating here in 1870 has seen Butler county developed from a primitive prairie to one of the greatest counties in the State of Kansas; and has done his part as a pioneer, a business man and a citizen in bringing about this wonderful transformation in the brief space of less than a lifetime. Mr. Sluss was born in Frederick county, Maryland, November 16, 1839, a son of John and Susan (Farney) Sluss, both natives of Frederick county, and descendants of Colonial ancestors. Michael Sluss, grandfather of W. H., was a captain in the United States army during the War of 1812. W. H. Sluss' parents spent their lives in Maryland, where the father who was a farmer died in 1891, and his wife died the same year. They were the parents of six children, two boys and four girls, all of whom are living except one son.

W. H. Sluss received a good common school education in his native State, and in 1863 went to St. Joseph, Mo. by rail, and later went down the river to Ft. Leavenworth, Kans. He was engaged in farming about a year in that section when he returned to his Maryland home, and after remaining there four or five months went to Iowa with a view of looking the country over. He remained in that State about six months and then went to Illinois and after spending a couple of months there came back to Leavenworth, Kans., but remained only three months when he returned to his old home in Maryland again. He worked on his father's farm for two years, but during all this time had Kansas on his mind and constantly kept thinking to himself "I want to go back to Kansas." He was right. When he was in Kansas he saw opportunities that the new State offered a young man, with ambition and a determination to win. In the spring of 1869, he went to Missouri and the following year came to Kansas, and preempted a quarter section of land, three miles south of El Dorado, where his present home is located. He built his first house about two rods north of where his present residence is located. The building is still standing and is built of native lumber which was sawed on Little Walnut Creek, with the exception of siding and shingles which were hauled from Emporia. Mr. Sluss "batched" for the first five years on his claim, which was not an unusual mode of living in those days. When he came here the country was in a crude and undeveloped state, and the blue stem grass was to be seen in every

direction. Deer, antelope and all kinds of small game were plentiful. The prairie was almost alive with prairie chickens and wolves traveled in droves and their howls around the cabins at night kept the bachelors of the plains from getting lonesome. Mr. Sluss says in those early days that they had plenty of buffalo meat, and most everybody generally kept a good supply of it on hand. There were no buffalo in this immediate vicinity but there were plenty just a little farther west along the banks of the Arkansas. He says one peculiar thing about conditions of those days was that there were no flies, which would give rise to the suspicion that flies like politicians were a product of an older civilization.

Mr. Sluss had some capital when he came to Butler county and saw possibilities in cattle raising, and was one of the first to engage in that business here. He started in with the Texas long horns but soon raised the standard of his stock, making high grade Galloways his specialty. He has handled thousands of cattle, perhaps more than any other man in Butler county, frequently raising from eighty to one hundred a year. Mr. Sluss added more land to his original holdings from time to time, until he acquired about 1800 acres, but in recent years he has turned considerable land over to his children, giving each a half section, and his sons have assumed the active management of his broad acres while he is taking life easy, as he is justly entitled, after the many years of a strenuous and successful business career.

Mr. Sluss was united in marriage in 1875, to Miss Frances Norris, of Spring township, Butler county, a daughter of Ward Norris, who came to this county with his family in 1872 and settled in Spring township. Mrs. Sluss was born in Wallworth county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Sluss have been born eight children, six of whom are living, as follows: Lula, married Herman Holem, El Dorado, Kans.; William, farmer and stock man, El Dorado township; Ollie, married Stanley Skaer and lives near Augusta; Harrison, a farmer and stock man, El Dorado township; Russell, also a farmer and stock man, El Dorado township, and George resides at home with his parents.

The hundreds of acres contained in the Sluss farm present an unusually well kept appearance, and Mr. Sluss' home is one of the most substantial buildings to be found in the county. The first house that Mr. Sluss built on his place came very nearly being demolished by a cyclone in the early days. Mr. Sluss was in the house when the cyclone struck it and he says he was not quite sure that he was ever going to be able to find his claim, after he landed, but he and the house both escaped, not very much the worse for the experience. And when he built his present residence thirty-four years ago he made it a point to see that the entire structure was as substantial as expense and mechanical ingenuity could make it. The walls are of solid stone of unusual thickness and would seem to be immune from the average gentle zephyr.

Mr. Sluss has always been a Republican, but in recent years he is inclined to be independent in his political views and not bound to any

particular creed. W. H. Sluss is one of the grand old pioneers of Butler county and a work of this character can cite the present and future generations to no better example of American manhood for their guidance and inspiration.

**Nels C. Hanson**, of Prospect township, is one of Butler county's representative citizens, and although not an early settler of this county he is proud of Butler county and Butler county is proud of him. Mr. Hanson is a native of Aalborg, Denmark, where he was born August 26, 1863, a son of Christian C. and Anna Hanson. When about six years old he removed with his parents to America after approximately a voyage of twelve days, landing at Castle Garden, New York. Coming directly to Iowa, they located in Union township, Des Moines county. There the father who was a blacksmith, started a shop, and a year or two later was able to purchase a satisfactory location for a home. He first erected a log house in which the family lived for about fifteen years. He built a good frame dwelling. At about that time also he abandoned his trade and gave his attention exclusively to farming.

At the time the family came to America there were six daughters and one son, the latter the subject of the present review. One son, Henry, was born in Iowa. All the children grew to maturity, and they are in the order of birth as follows: Caroline, who now resides in Cedar county, Iowa, married Nels Fulgsang; Sine, married Peter Peterson, is now deceased; Mary, married John Swan, West Burlington, Iowa; Nels C., the subject of this sketch; Hannah, Burlington, Iowa, married Peter Simonson; Carrie, married Conrad Schwartz, Winfield, Iowa; Minnie, wife of George Schafer, Chicago; and Henry, resides in Butler county, married Miss Laura Hagley.

Christian C. Hanson, the father, enjoyed the advantages of a good education, having in his native land received an excellent training in a military school, and as an officer in the Danish army, took part in the war between his country and Germany in 1848. He had the good fortune never to be wounded, but the wholehearted character of the man and his service in those trying times is indicated by the fact that he was awarded a medal for meritorious conduct. His devotion to his native land in no way exceeded his loyalty to the land of his adoption, and on coming here he made a conscientious study of public questions. He was a lifelong student, being a lover of reading and research along intellectual lines. His nature, too, was deeply religious, although he never became identified with any particular church, and it was characteristic of him that he was ready at all times to sacrifice his own ease and pleasure for the benefit of those who were near and dear to him. Thus, while he realized that for himself and his wife the conditions of life would have been easier in Denmark than in this country, he never regretted that he had moved to America, as this country offered greater opportunities to children. He provided for each of his children a good common school education, and to their welfare he devoted the best



efforts of a long life of arduous toil. He died July 24, 1893, and the mother died in August, 1897, in Des Moines county, Iowa.

Nels C. Hanson received a fairly complete common school education in the district schools of Iowa, and, early, began to assist his father in the support of the family by working for a farmer when only ten years of age for \$8 per month. Not satisfied with his education, he matriculated in a business college at the age of seventeen years, but lacking financial resources, he was compelled to give up this line of study after one month. He had inherited from his father a taste for good reading, however, and in this way he largely made up for the deficiency of his former training and supplied his lack of the usual advantages, for he began this method of self culture when but a small boy, and has ever since continued it with increasing enthusiasm. He has in his home a library of 500 volumes, which is one of the best selected private libraries in Butler county. He still worked at farm labor, however, until his twenty-second year, when he bought 120 acres of land in Hamilton county, Iowa.

In Union township, Des Moines county, Iowa, on February 18, 1886, Mr. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Sopha Schwartz, a native of that township and a daughter of Fred and Caroline Schwartz, who were both born in Germany. For two years Mr. Hanson and his bride resided at the farm in Hamilton county, but at the expiration of that eropd he sold the farm there and removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he lived for approximately six years, engaged in various occupations. During two years of this time he was shipping clerk of the Burlington Saddlery Manufactory, and for the following three years he resided at Galesburg, Ill., as a representative of the same firm. He then purchased a farm in Union township. He became much interested in the improvement of farm stock, and his activities, in fact, extended to almost all matters of community interests. In 1901 Mr. Hanson and two other gentlemen organized and incorporated a telephone company in Des Moines county, Iowa, and Mr. Hanson was made the first secretary and treasurer of this corporation, a position he occupied until January 1, 1905; and during this period so great was the success of the enterprise that the capital stock was increased to \$25,000.

In 1907 Mr. Hanson came to Butler county, Kansas, for his health, which had been failing for some time. He was so pleased with the climate and the country that he bought 160 acres of land in Prospect township, where he has since been living in partial retirement, although he supervises the operation of his farm and is considered one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Prospect township.

When quite young, Mr. Hanson became an active worker for the success of the Republican party, whose principles involved his ideas of popular government, and at an early age began serving his party in both county and State conventions. In recognition of his services he received in 1901 the nomination for representative for Des Moines

county in the Iowa State legislature, and although the party was in the minority in that county he attracted such a strong following that he was again made the standard bearer. This honor was entirely unsought on his part but his personal popularity carried him forward and he lacked only a few votes of election. Co-existent with his activities in public life, he has always maintained a warm interest in humanitarian and religious work, and in 1899 he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. From this body he has received license as an exhorter, a branch of the work in which he has accomplished much, and he has also served as superintendent of the Sunday school. His labors in this field have been so markedly successful that he has been solicited and even urged to devote himself to the regular ministry of the Gospel; and should he ever decide to do so it would doubtless mean much for his denomination.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have been born the following children: Irwin, born in Burlington, Iowa, March 9, 1890, married Mary Freeman, a native of El Dorado, and he is an electrical engineer in the employ of the Mississippi Power Company, Keokuk, Iowa; Myrtle, born in Burlington, Iowa, July 13, 1892, married Joseph Locke of Prospect township; and Virginia, born in Burlington, Iowa, August 15, 1906, resides at home.

In these modern days of intense specialization, when most men find time only along one line of restricted endeavor, it is encouraging to find a man who has not paid for his success at the cost of his own self development. Naturally gifted with versatile talents, Mr. Hanson has by extensive experience in practical affairs, touched the circle of an ideal career at almost every point. Honor, reputation and loyal friendship he has won by the strength and sincerity of his purpose. His work in religious and fraternal circles, in the political world and in the home community have been a help and encouragement to many, while his success in a business way should inspire the young with the thought that even in this day of specialization a man may attain to a high material achievement and still develop a broad and many sided character.

Mr. Hanson is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Butler County Grange and has been secretary of that organization for the past year. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of El Dorado.

**F. L. Preston, M. D.**, is a native of Michigan, born in Grand Rapids in 1881, and is a son of Rev. C. L. and Della May (Reynolds) Preston. The father, now deceased, having been a Congregational minister, was of English lineage, the family coming from England to Virginia, where they were prominent in the affairs of that State in early Colonial days. Several members of the family in direct line of descent for several generations were ministers, other members being identified with the professions of law and medicine.

Dr. Preston's mother, Della May (Reynolds) Preston, is of Scotch



F. L. PRESTON, M. D.



descent, being a daughter of Volney and Christina Reynolds, of Waldron, Mich. C. L. and Della May (Reynolds) Preston were parents of six children, four of whom are now living, as follows: F. L. Preston, the subject of this sketch; C. C. Preston, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Edna (Preston) Tuttle, Wooster, Ohio; Miss Erma Preston, Waldron, Michigan.

After a public school education, Dr. Preston entered the Presbyterian College of Alma, Mich., where he took a scientific course. Upon completing this, he entered North Western University of Chicago, Ill., where he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, after which he took a post-graduate course, and work in the surgical department of Passavant Hospital of Chicago. During his course at Alma College, at Alma, Mich., Dr. Preston served as student interne in the hospital of that city for a period of three years, and then did surgical work in Columbia Hospital in Chicago for the same length of time.

Dr. Preston was married in 1906 to Miss Gertrude Slaght. Dr. and Mrs. Preston came to El Dorado in October of 1911, where he has since been successfully engaged in practice. Dr. Preston has given special attention to surgery, and has, already, won the well merited reputation of being one of the successful surgeons, not only of Butler county, but of the State of Kansas. He has performed many delicate and difficult operations, in the course of his practice since coming to El Dorado, and has met with success to a marked degree.

Dr. Preston established the El Dorado Hospital in 1914, which of itself represents one of the most advanced steps in behalf of medicine and surgery in the history of Butler county. The wisdom of this move is now clearly apparent, more especially since the great industrial development in this county at the present time. There is scarcely a day passes but what this hospital receives several emergency cases, to say nothing of the demands made upon the institution in the regular treatment of ordinary cases. The hospital now has a capacity of twenty patients which is constantly taxed to the limit, and plans are under way for the erection of a more extensive hospital building to meet the rapidly increasing demand.

**J. D. Morley**, a Butler county pioneer and prominent farmer and stockman, of El Dorado township, is a native of New York. He was born in Wayne county, in 1845, and is a son of Oliver and Laura (Fassett) Morley, the former a native of Boston, Mass., and the latter of Jefferson county, New York, and both descendants of old American families. The father came with his parents from Massachusetts to New York when he was a child. The parents of J. D. Morley both spent their lives in New York State.

J. D. Morley was reared in the State of New York and received a good common school education. In 1870 he came west, as he believed there were better opportunities for a young man in a new and undeveloped country. After coming to Kansas, he spent about two years in

Greenwood county when he returned to New York State and remained there until 1876. Like many others in the early days, he had seen Kansas and had breathed its pure free air, and was unable to remain away from the State of opportunity. Accordingly, in 1876, he returned to this State, this time settling in Butler county. He bought 160 acres of land in El Dorado township, and has added to his original holdings and now owns 480 acres which constitutes one of the valuable farms of Butler county. His place is located a few miles north of El Dorado, which is one of the ideal spots of the county. Since coming to Kansas and locating here Mr. Morley has been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising and is one of the representative and substantial men of Butler county.

Mr. Morley was married in 1878, to Miss Fannie Dix, of Butler county, and they have two children: Oliver, who is associated with his father on the farm, is married and lives in a commodious modern residence across the road from the old home; and Laura Eugenia resides at home.

During his many years of residence in Butler county, Mr. Morley has become widely and favorably known and has many friends. He belongs to that genial, wholesouled type of men who not only make friends but keep them.

**J. W. Kirkpatrick**, the leading jeweler of El Dorado, Kans., is a progressive young business man who has made rapid and substantial progress in his chosen field since he has engaged in business for himself. Mr. Kirkpatrick was born at Holden, Missouri, August 31, 1881, and was the only child of James L. and Rebecca (Hall) Kirkpatrick, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Kentucky. The mother died when J. W. was an infant and he never knew a mother's care. The father married a second time and to that union were born two children: Russell Kirkpatrick, of Jefferson City, Mo., and Ernest, who resides at Holden, Mo. The father also resides there.

In 1886, when J. W. Kirkpatrick was five years old, he went to live with his grandfather, W. W. Hall, at Anthony, Kans. Here he was reared and educated, attending the Anthony High School, and afterward learned the watchmaker's trade at Anthony. After working at his trade there for two years he went to Atchison, Kans. and was employed as a watchmaker for one year. In 1900 he came to El Dorado and worked at his trade for seven years and on October 15, 1907, engaged in the jewelry and watch-making business for himself at No. 105 North Main street, which is his present location. He carries a complete line of watches, jewelry and articles usually found in a first class jewelry store. During the nine years that he has been in the jewelry business in El Dorado, he has built up a reputation for honesty and square dealing which is one of the most valuable assets that a merchant can have, especially in his particular line of business. When Mr. Kirkpatrick says "It is solid gold," it is solid gold, for it is his business to know, and it is his method to represent his goods as they are.

Mr. Kirkpatrick was united in marriage at Wichita, Kans., June 6, 1906, to Miss Ester Louise Thayer, of Wichita. She is a daughter of J. L. Thayer and Mina (Cash) Thayer. The father is now living retired at Wichita and Mrs. Thayer is deceased. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born in Decatur, Ill. She is a prominent member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was the organizer of the El Dorado chapter. She is now regent of that order. Mr. Kirkpatrick is a member of the time honored Masonic Lodge and politically is a Republican. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick are well known in El Dorado and vicinity and have many friends.

**Phineas Osborn**, now living retired in El Dorado, is a Butler county pioneer who came here forty-two years ago. Mr. Osborn was born in Spencer, Tioga county, New York, April 28, 1842, and is a son of Ransom and Eliza (Thompson) Osborn. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living except a daughter who died in infancy. The others are as follows: Elisha, Billings, Mo.; Jabez, Chilhowee, Mo.; Phineas, the subject of this sketch; Lucy, married Charles Foster, El Dorado, and both are deceased; Mary, married Lorenzo Ripley, Baldwin, Kans.; Elizabeth A., widow of Henry Paul, who was murdered and robbed in Greenwood county in the early days; Hannah Emelia, married Alvin Goff, Ottumwa, Iowa.

Phineas Osborn was reared and educated in Tioga county, New York, and was engaged in the lumber business, and also interested in farming in his native State when a young man. In 1874 he came to Kansas, with a view of looking the country over, and if possible finding a suitable location. At that time there was no railroad in Butler county and he came from Florence to El Dorado by stage. He stopped at the old El Dorado hotel which was located on the southeast corner of Main street and Central avenue. After looking the country over he bought 320 acres in Chelsea township. At that time he could have homesteaded land in the vicinity of Wichita, but Butler county suited him and he decided to invest here. He later increased his acreage to 560 acres, and engaged in general farming and stock raising and has met with unusual success. However, he had his unprofitable and bad years as well as good ones, and saw many of his neighbors get discouraged and leave the country.

Mr. Osborn was married in 1864 to Miss Rebecca Corchran, of Tioga county, New York, and a native of Connecticut. To Mr. and Mrs. Osborn have been born five children, as follows: Robert, died when thirteen years old; Charles Harvey, died when a child five years old in Butler; Robert Ranson died at thirteen years; John Hughes, operating one of his father's farms in Chelsea township, and Cecil R., also operating one of the father's farms in Chelsea. Mr. Osborn and his wife removed to El Dorado in 1914, where they purchased a fine residence and are spending their time in quiet and comfort. Mr. Osborn's farm property is some of the best improved property in Butler county. The main farm

residence is one of the best modern equipped homes to be found in Butler county.

During his many years of residence in Chelsea township, Mr. Osborn took a commendable interest in public affairs, and served as a member of the school board for over half the time he was a resident of that township. He also held the office of justice of the peace. He and the other members of the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**J. W. Cannon**, one of the present members of the board of county commissioners of Butler county, has won the reputation of being a capable and conscientious public official and is well and favorably known throughout Butler county.

Mr. Cannon was born in Jackson county, Tennessee, February 11, 1844, and is a son of Alexander and Frances (Hale) Cannon, the former a native of Ireland, and the latter of Tennessee. The Cannon family removed from Tennessee to northwestern Missouri and settled in Gentry county, that state, in 1856, and the parents spent their lives in that county. J. W. Cannon is one of a family of nine children. He received his education in the public schools of Gentry county, and when he was just a few months past eighteen, he enlisted, June 1, 1862, at Albany, Mo., and became a member of Company I, Third Missouri cavalry. His company operated most of the time in Missouri and Arkansas, and along the border, which was the most disagreeable and hazardous kind of warfare. They had such notorious military outlaws as Quantrill and his followers to contend with, and fought these organized guerillas on numerous occasions, and also General Price's command and other Confederate forces. In 1864, Mr. Cannon's command was sent to Rome, Ga., and an incident occurred there that is worthy of narration. Mr. Cannon's comrade was severely wounded and wrote his home address on a five dollar bill which he gave Mr. Cannon. As he wrote, the blood dripping from his wound spattered on the bill and Mr. Cannon has in his possession to this day that blood-stained five dollar bill, and he cherishes it in memory of his comrade, and as a souvenir of the stirring time when human life was held so lightly. Mr. Cannon was in Georgia only ten days when they were ordered to Little Rock, Ark., and continued the campaign in the west until the close of the war. Mr. Cannon was twice wounded. In a skirmish with Quantrill's band at Chilli-cothe, he was shot in the leg and at Camp Craner a ball entered his left side and lodged in his right shoulder. He was never captured but had many narrow escapes. After having served three years and seventeen days he was discharged at St. Louis, Mo., June 17, 1865.

At the close of the war Mr. Cannon returned to Gentry county, Missouri, where he was engaged in farming until 1880; he then came to Butler county, Kansas, and preempted 160 acres in Hickory township. He later bought additional land until he owned 700 acres. He sold his farm property and in 1906 removed to El Dorado where he has since resided.



Mr. Cannon has always taken an active part in political affairs and since coming to Butler county he has never missed attending a county convention of his party as a delegate and has frequently attended State conventions. In 1912 he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners and served as chairman of that body until January 1, 1916. In the discharge of his duties as county commissioner Mr. Cannon has proved himself to be a capable, conscientious and efficient county officer and has won a commendation of the tax payers of Butler county.

Mr. Cannon was married in 1864, November 5, to Miss Mary A. Lewis, of Gentry county, Missouri, and a native of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Cannon have been born the following children: Frances A., married William P. Carter, Kansas City, Mo.; Elmer, died at the age of twenty; A. G., and A. D., twin brothers residing at Cato, Okla. These two boys have a remarkable and unusual resemblance to each other, and they are also very much attached to each other.

Mr. Cannon is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Masonic Lodge. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for over fifty years.

**L. J. Egan**, owner and proprietor of the Egan Tin Works, El Dorado, Kans., is a native of Minnesota. Mr. Egan was born in St. Paul, April 25, 1865, and is a son of Thomas and Josie (O'Neil) Egan. The mother was a native of Kentucky, and the father was reared in New York City, coming to this country from Ireland with his parents when a child. When a young man Thomas Egan left his New York home and went west as an employee of the Government, in the department of Indian affairs in connection with an Indian reservation in the Northwest Territory and he was located in the vicinity of St. Paul, which was at that time a mere trading post.

In 1871 the Egan family went to Iowa, locating at Emmetsburg, in the northwestern part of the State. They were early settlers in that section of Iowa and the father took up a homestead and spent the remainder of his life there. The mother preceded him in death by several years. L. J. Egan was about six years old when the family located in Iowa and he was reared to manhood and educated in the public schools of Iowa. When a young man he served an apprenticeship at the tinner's trade at Ruthven, Iowa, and worked at his trade in that town until 1898. He then came to El Dorado, Kans. and worked at his trade in the employ of C. L. Turner for eight years.

In 1906, he established his present business which he has conducted since that time, and he has occupied his present location, No. 120 West Central avenue, since 1907. By reliable workmanship and honorable methods, he has built up an extensive business which now gives employment to from four to six men.

Mr. Egan was married in 1896 to Miss Barbara Dreis, of Hospers, Iowa, and they have seven children, as follows: Bernice, Blaine, Pansey,

Joseph, William, Margaret and Con, all students in the El Dorado schools except Con, the baby. Mr. Egan is independent in politics and one of El Dorado's substantial and progressive business men.

**C. M. Neal**, one of Butler county's progressive merchants who is engaged in the hardware business at Benton, has been a Kansan since he was a year old. Mr. Neal was born in Warrensburg, Johnson county, Missouri, October 22, 1870, and is a son of J. W. and Christina C. (Brougher) Neal, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Indiana. The Neal family removed from Missouri to Kansas in 1871, and located in Sumner county, seven miles east of Caldwell where the father took up a Government claim. Soon after settling there he sold his claim and removed to the western part of Sedgwick county. After a short residence in that part of the county they removed to Wichita and from there to Douglass where they resided about twenty years when they came to Benton township. The father was a farmer and died in Benton township in 1910, and the mother now resides on the old homestead in that township. There were eight children in the Neal family, five girls and three boys.

C. M. Neal received a good common school education and followed farming until January 1, 1911, having lived in Benton township since 1888. In 1911 he purchased a hardware store and stock at Benton, and since that time has been engaged in that line of business there. He handles a full line of shelf hardware and also buggies, wagons, farming implements, harvesting machinery and fencing. By his square dealing and reliable business methods he has not only built up a large trade but has won many friends and as a merchant has won the confidence of the community.

Mr. Neal was united in marriage December 3, 1895, to Miss Etta Freeman, an estimable lady of Douglass, Kans. She was born in Bloomington township, Butler county, June 19, 1876. Her parents were early settlers in Butler county, her father dying when she was a child and her mother now resides at Augusta. Mrs. Neal died July 6, 1913, leaving one child, Neva Bell, who resides with her father at Benton.

Mr. Neal is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security and belongs to the Christian church.

**A. Whitecotton**, now living retired at Benton, Kans., is a Kansas pioneer, who has spent forty-six years of his life in this State, and is typical of that class of men of whom it may be said that they were especially qualified for the great work of opening up the West to civilization. This noble band of pioneers who went forth in the early days to conquer the wilderness and subdue the plains, knew not fear, and to overcome obstacles seemed to be their specialty. They had a mission to perform in the eternal fitness of things, and it can be said of them that they did their duty.

Mr. Whitecotton is a native of Indiana and was born June 28, 1840, a son of George and Angeline Whitecotton of that State, where the

father was a successful farmer in the early days. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Lydia Jones, Lapell, Ind.; Oliver W., Lapell, Ind.; Sidney, Mt. Comfort, Ind.; George W., Terre Haute, Ind.; Mrs. Mary Cotton, Indianapolis, Ind.; Benton, Indianapolis, and A., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Whitecotton was married in 1864 to Miss S. M. Stouder, a daughter of William and Rebecca Stouder, natives of Indiana. Mrs. Whitecotton is one of a family of three children, as follows: Davis, Madison, Kans.; William, Nocona, Texas, and Mrs. Whitecotton. To Mr. and Mrs. Whitecotton have been born two children: Mrs. Eva Gordon, Augusta, Kans., and Howard W., Benton, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitecotton came to Kansas in 1870 and homesteaded 160 acres of land in the eastern part of Sedgwick county and immediately began to improve their home and follow farming in a small way. Money was scarce and the Whitecotton family like the other early pioneers had limited means, and Mr. Whitecotton resorted to every honorable method to earn a dollar. He worked on the streets of Wichita for \$1.50 per day and slept in his wagon at night, while Mrs. Whitecotton remained at home on the claim. They felt that they were just getting a start when in 1874 the grasshoppers swept down and destroyed everything that they had, in the way of crops, and left them with nothing with which to subsist during the coming winter. Mr. Whitecotton then took his team and found employment hauling buffalo bones from the Ninescah valley to Wichita. He found these bones in great quantities along the Ninescah river and after hauling them to Wichita found a ready market at \$6 per ton. After this he engaged in freighting which he followed until the spring of 1875 when he proved up on his claim and after securing the title was able to borrow \$200 for which he paid sixteen per cent. The same year he borrowed seed wheat and gave one-third of the crop to the man who furnished the seed. From that time on he met with success in farming and stock-raising and accumulated a competence. A few years ago he sold his farm and bought a place in the town of Benton. He has one acre of land and a very comfortable home where he and his wife are spending their declining years in peace and comfort, after an active and successful career of enterprise and industry.

Mr. Whitecotton is a veteran of the Civil war. He enlisted at the first call of President Lincoln in Company K, Eighth regiment Indiana infantry and served until the close of the war, four years and two months. He served under Fremont in Missouri, and from this to the siege of Vicksburg, and after the fall of Vicksburg, he went to New Orleans, and was then transferred to the Army of the Potomac and served under Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley; later to Savannah, and did garrison duty. Later they went to Augusta and guarded Jeff Davis on his trip to Savannah. From there went to Hawkinsville on detached duty. He was discharged at Darian, Ga., in August, 1865, and returned to Indiana.

**Newt Purcell**, the popular and efficient sheriff of Butler county, stands for the conscientious performance of his duty at all times. He received much of his education in the hard school of experience, and largely through his own efforts, has made good. He was born in James county, Tennessee, December 25, 1876, and is a son of Samuel G. and Mary (Kimbrough) Purcell, both natives of Tennessee.

The Purcell family left their Tennessee home in 1881, and came to Kansas, locating in Butler county, south of Augusta. They remained there about two years when they returned to Tennessee, and in 1885, again set out for Kansas. The second time they made the trip across the country with a prairie schooner and a team of mules, with western Kansas as their objective point. After failing to find a suitable location in that section of the state, and after traveling many miles with their primitive outfit, many incidences of which are still fresh in Sheriff Purcell's mind, they returned to Butler county, and located near Augusta, again. The first few years in Kansas was a struggle for existence. The second time that they located in Butler county, the mother was sick, and \$6 was the limit of the family fund. The father engaged in farming and after persistence and hard work met with a reasonable degree of success.

Newt Purcell was reared on the farm near Augusta, and obtained his education in the district schools. When he was eighteen years of age, he entered the employ of the Sante Fe Railroad Company, in a bridge construction gang, and shortly afterwards became a locomotive fireman on that road, between Newton and Dodge City, and served in that capacity for three years. While he was engaged in railroading he had bought land from time to time, near Augusta, which, by the way, is now (1916) valuable oil producing property. In 1904 he resigned his position with the railroad company and engaged in farming and stock raising on his farm, which he followed until 1910, when he was appointed under-sheriff by Sheriff Moss, and served in that capacity until 1914 when he was elected sheriff.

Mr. Purcell was first married March 28, 1895, to Miss Birdie Case of Augusta, who died January 19, 1896, leaving one child: Henry Newton Purcell, who met with an accidental death, August 12, 1901, by falling from a window. On September 16, 1900, Mr. Purcell was united in marriage with Miss Marian La Vanche Forgy, a native of El Dorado, whose parents were early settlers in this county and came from Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Purcell have been born two children; Icy Irene and Garland Newton, both of whom are students in the El Dorado schools.

Sheriff Purcell is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and belongs to the Mystic Shrine; he is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, and Anti-Horse Thief Association. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. He is a Republican, and since he became



NEWT PURCELL



a voter has taken an active part in local politics. During his six years' experience in the sheriff's office, he has won the reputation of doing his duty faithfully and fearlessly. During the recent rapid industrial development of Butler county, due to the rapid development of the oil and gas fields, much additional work, both of a civil and criminal nature, has devolved upon the sheriff's office, and Sheriff Purcell has been found equal to every emergency.

**Anthony G. Davis**, a Civil war veteran and one of the earliest settlers of Butler county, now living retired at Benton, is a native of Tennessee. He was born May 26, 1838, in McMinn county and is a son of Anthony and Peachy Davis, both natives of Tennessee. The Davis family migrated from Tennessee to Missouri in 1848, settling in Neosho, where the parents spent their lives.

Anthony G. Davis grew to manhood on the Missouri farm, and in 1859 came to Butler county and homesteaded 160 acres in Benton township. Here he built a primitive log hut, broke prairie and began farming in a small way at first, and later became an extensive farmer and stock man. It must be borne in mind that 1859 was a very early date in the settlement of Butler county and this section of Kansas. He who penetrated the wild and unexplored frontier as far west as this at that time was truly a pioneer plainsman. There were scarcely any settlements west of Emporia then, and few inhabitants with the exception of Indians, soldiers and a few Indian traders. The nearest postoffice was Emporia, and the principal part of the supplies were obtained from that point. Mr. Davis has often made the trip to Emporia with oxen in the early days, camping by the side of the trail at night, whenever darkness closed his day's journey.

The first year in which he was engaged in farming was the dry year of 1860, of which we hear so much, and the settlers raised absolutely nothing that year and Mr. Davis split rails the following winter for a mere pittance, in order to buy a little corn to sustain life during the winter. Had it not been for the fact that game of all kinds was plentiful, early settlers like Mr. Davis would have been unable to obtain any meat whatever. After coming here he killed buffalo in Butler county and at one time he and a neighbor named Wilson went a little farther west and killed two wagon loads of buffalo on the ground where the city of Wichita now stands and he has killed hundreds of wild turkeys, prairie chickens, antelope and deer. He had many experiences of a thrilling nature such as the pioneer encounters. He had some experiences with the early day prairie fires which swept the plains periodically, and at one time lost several horses in the devastating flames that swept the prairie. There was a great variety of entertainment that kept the early settlers of Butler county busy. Perhaps, before they had time to fully remove the ashes and cinders of the prairie fire from their eyes, a blizzard would sweep down from the northwest and Mr. Davis has experienced several of those freaks of the weather, and at one time nearly lost

his life in a blizzard. He and his father-in-law and two brothers-in-law became lost in a blizzard and after wandering aimlessly around the prairie for eight or ten miles during the storm, they fortunately ran into some timber and built a great fire and thus escaped freezing to death.

Mr. Davis was an unerring shot with a rifle which stood him in good hand in keeping the family supplied with meat. Any time Mrs. Davis would report "out of meat" Mr. Davis would take his gun and go to his "blind," which he had prepared about 150 yards from the cabin, and at the same time Mrs. Davis would put a kettle of water on the fire place and he always brought back a turkey, and never disappointed Mrs. Davis but once, and that time he came back to get Mrs. Davis to help him drag a large buck deer which he had killed, to the house, instead of a turkey.

March 8, 1862, Mr. Davis enlisted at Ft. Scott, Kans., in the Sixth regiment, Kansas cavalry, and after three years of service he was mustered out at Devall Bluff, Ark. He was united in marriage December 30, 1858, with Miss Amelia Vann, a daughter of William and Susan Vann. The Vann family were pioneers of Kansas, and the father was a native of England. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis five children were born, one of whom, Mrs. Susan L. Hall, of Benton, Kans., is living. Mrs. Davis died February 25, 1913, aged seventy years three months and eleven days.

For years Mr. Davis was prominent in the political affairs of Butler county and the State of Kansas, and he is one of the well known men of Butler county, and is frequently referred to as the "grand old man of the sixties."

**L. C. Hill**, a representative merchant of Benton, is one of the progressive and wide-awake business men of Butler county. He was born in Pennsylvania, August 2, 1869, and is a son of A. S. and Elizabeth Hill, both natives of Pennsylvania. The Hill family consisted of three children, as follows: Mrs. Letta Greenwood, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Bert, Custer City, Okla.; L. C., the subject of this sketch, and Lula and Nona, deceased. The family came to Kansas in 1871, locating one and one-half miles east of Towanda, where the father homesteaded a quarter-section of land, where he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising for fifteen years. He then retired, and for a time lived in Towanda, El Dorado and Cleveland, Okla., and died in 1893. His wife died in 1891, while on a visit in Pennsylvania.

Although L. C. Hill was a very young man when the family came to Butler county, he has a very distinct recollection of many events that transpired in the early days. Anything out of the ordinary made a lasting impression on his youthful mind. He was only five years old at the time of the visitation of the grasshoppers, in 1874, yet he remembers very clearly how they came in great clouds and turned daylight into darkness, and devastated everything in the nature of vegetation before



them. He has seen prairie chickens by the thousands, and killed a great many of them in the early days, they being a common article of food with the early settlers. He says that while there were many inconveniences in the early days that social conditions were not bad. Neighbors frequently met on various occasions and had good times and enjoyed themselves.

A. S. Hill, the father of L. C., was a stone mason, and after coming to Kansas worked at his trade occasionally. He assisted in building the dam at Towanda, and the Lyttle Mill on the west branch of the White-water. He built his own house after settling on his claim, which was a combination stone and log house, and was plastered with mud. It was comfortable but not elegant and made a good substantial home, and much better than the average pioneer of that locality possessed.

L. C. Hill began making his own way in the world at the early age of fifteen, his first work being that of a cow-boy, and he herded cattle on the plains for \$3 per month for two years. When eighteen years of age he entered the employ of Sam Fulton and remained with him for eight years. He then entered the employ of Gust Loncer, a general merchant at Towanda, remaining with him as clerk for nine years. In 1905 he formed a partnership with his brother Bert and they engaged in the general mercantile business at Benton, Kans. under the firm name of Hill Brothers. On December 1, 1910 his brother disposed of his interest in the business to Henry Enoch and the firm became Hill & Enoch and about a year later Mr. Hill bought Mr. Enoch's interest and since that time he has conducted the business alone. His business occupies the best store building in Benton which Mr. Hill built in 1913. He carries a complete line of general merchandise and has built up a large business in and around Benton. He has built up a reputation for square dealing and won the confidence of the buying public which is the greatest asset that any commercial institution can have. Mr. Hill has met with well merited success in the mercantile world.

November 1, 1900, Mr. Hill was married to Miss Minne May Doyle, a daughter of John and Eliza Doyle, natives of Missouri and to this marriage three children were born: Marvin, aged 13; Edith, aged 9, and Merton, aged 5. The wife and mother of these children died September 17, 1912. Mr. Hill's second wife, to whom he was married October 1, 1913, bore the maiden name of Miss Glenna Opal Mallicoat, and was a successful and popular teacher in the Benton public schools prior to her marriage.

Mr. Hill since reaching maturity has taken a keen interest in local affairs, and while living in Towanda township held the office of township clerk for four years, and has been a member of the city council of Benton for a number of years. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Methodist Episcopal church, having been superintendent of the Sunday school of that denomination for four years.

Notwithstanding the rapid development of his mercantile business

at Benton, which would seem to take all the time and attention of any one man. Mr. Hill has taken on additional business responsibility and on March 6, 1914, he opened a branch store at Towanda, where he is doing a very satisfactory business and building up a large commercial institution, W. G. Turner, being his local manager at Towanda while A. C. Wallace assists Mr. Hill in the Benton establishment.

**Harley I. French**, the popular county superintendent of public instruction of Butler county, is one of the successful educators of the State. Mr. French was born in Franklin county, Ohio, January 19, 1874, and is a son of George D. and Melissa (Ricketts) French, natives of Ohio, the former of Franklin county and the latter of Fairfield.

The French family was founded in America by Captain French, a native of France, who was a sea captain and settled in Virginia at an early date. He was the great-grandfather of Harley I. French and his son, Harley French's grandfather, migrated from Virginia to Ohio and was a pioneer of that State. Melissa Ricketts, Mr. French's mother, was a granddaughter of Col. John C. Ricketts, who was a colonel in the War of 1812. He was a civil engineer by profession and did considerable work for the Government. He surveyed across the continent. His son, Ira Ricketts, the father of Melissa Ricketts, was a civil engineer and also a lawyer, being a member of the bar of Fairfield county, Ohio.

Harley I. French was the only child born to his parents. He came to Butler county with his parents in 1891 and the father engaged in farming and stock raising in Hickory township where he died June 21, 1908. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and an exemplary citizen. His widow now resides in El Dorado.

Harley I. French attended the public schools in Madison township, Franklin county, Ohio, and later took a course in Reynoldsburg Union Academy, and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1890. He then entered the Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio, remaining until his junior year, when he came west with his parents and reached El Dorado July 9, 1891. He attended the Normal Institute here that year and after receiving a teacher's certificate, taught for two years in the southeastern part of the county, at Plainview District No. 144. He then taught two years at District No. 130 and two years at Beaumont. He was then principal of the Latham schools for three years and held a similiar position at Severy for three years. He then served as principal of the Douglass schools for two years, when he accepted the principalship of the Howard schools at Howard, Kans., and after holding this position for six years he resigned to accept the principalship of the Leon schools. From Leon he went to Rosehill as principal of the schools, serving one year. He was then elected superintendent of public instruction. This was in 1912. In 1914 he was re-elected to succeed himself, and at that time received a majority of nearly 4,000 votes, which was the highest majority ever given a candidate in Butler county.

Mr. French is a progressive educator, and his methods and influence

are clearly apparent in Butler county by the progress which the schools have made under his administration. He is capable of devising and encouraging methods of maintaining interest in educational work. He possesses the rare capability of keeping both the teachers and pupils interested in their work. He has inaugurated the spelling contests in Butler county and has organized community welfare clubs. He keeps in close touch with the progress of the students of the public schools, and if a student fails, Mr. French investigates the cause and frequently is able to find an effectual remedy, and altogether, is one of the thoroughly capable and conscientious educators of the State.

Mr. French was united in marriage August 24, 1904, with Miss Cora Fuller, a native of Afton, Iowa, and a daughter of Henry Woodruff and Sarah Ann (Grandfield) Fuller, the former a native of Birkshire, Delaware county, Ohio, and the latter a native of Bristol, England. The Fuller family came to Kansas in 1877 and located in Reno county, and in 1879 removed to Greenwood county and now reside at Eureka. Mrs. French was educated in the rural schools of Greenwood county and graduated from the Southern Kansas Academy at Eureka in the class of 1894, and when a girl taught district school in the flint hills of Greenwood county for one term, and the following year entered Kansas University and was graduated in the class of 1899 with a degree of Bachelor of Arts. She then taught in the Eureka schools and after that, taught the sciences in the Parsons High School for three years prior to her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. French have been born three children: Zelia J., Harriet M., and Lephia M.

Mrs. French is a member of the Women's Mutual Benefit Club of El Dorado and the W. C. T. U. and is assistant superintendent of schools of Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. French are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. French is prominent in organized educational work, and has been president of the Southern Kansas Teachers' Association. He is a capable man in the great field of educational work which he has chosen, and it can be truthfully said of him that he gives his work the best that is in him.

**J. H. Price**, senior member of the firm J. H. Price & Company, one of the leading real estate, loan and insurance firms of El Dorado, is a native of Ohio. Mr. Price was born in Belmont county, August 1, 1839, and is a son of Samuel and Ruanna (Lady) Price, the former a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. They spent their lives in Ohio.

J. H. Price was reared and educated in his native State and had reached the age of manhood when the Civil war broke out, and in answer to the President's call for volunteers, he enlisted at Chillicothe, Ohio, August 30, 1861 in Company B, Second Battalion, Eighteenth United States infantry. Four brothers of J. H. Price enlisted in the Union army during the Civil war and two of them were killed in action and the other two were wounded. The father also offered his services

but was rejected on account of being past the military age. His command was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, joining General Thomas at Mill Springs, Ky., from which point they made a forced march in time to be at the battle of Shiloh, and they also participated in the battle of Corinth and the battle of Perryville, and in a fight with Morgan at Lenan, Ky. It fell to Mr. Price's lot to do a great deal of detached duty in the way of scouting in Kentucky and he was in a number of skirmishes. He was at the battle of Stone River and Murfreesboro, where his regiment suffered very severe losses. In that engagement six of the color bearers had been shot down, and Mr. Price was the seventh to pick up the fallen colors and fortunately escaped without injury. He was at the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Resaca, and numerous other battles and skirmishes, and in the campaign against Atlanta. He was at the battles of Jonesboro and Nashville. Mr. Price was wounded three times during his service. He was struck on the neck with a fragment of a shell at the battle of Stone River and was struck on one of his fingers by a gun shot at Lebanon, Ky., and in an attack by guerillas between Nashville and Chattanooga he was struck in the neck by several small shot. Mr. Price was promoted, step by step, until he became first sergeant of his company, and at the battle of Stone River, both the captain and first lieutenant of his company were killed, and, by virtue of his rank as first sergeant, Mr. Price became first lieutenant during the remainder of that battle. At the close of a brilliant military career he was discharged near Jonesboro, Ga., August 30, 1864, by reason of the expiration of his term of service, although he remained with his regiment for some time after his discharge.

At the close of the war Mr. Price returned to Ohio where he was engaged in the marble business until 1873, when he went to Iowa and located in Taylor county, and for a number of years, was a minister in the United Brethren church. In 1880, he came to Kansas and for a time lived in Lincoln county, where he was engaged in the ministry for two or three years, and also preached in various other places in Kansas and Colorado. In 1904 he came to Butler county and engaged in farming, and in 1912 located in El Dorado, where he has since been engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business. In 1916, his son, William S., became the junior member of the firm.

Mr. Price was first married February 19, 1866, to Miss Lizzie E. Davis, a native of Jackson county, Ohio, and two children were born to this union: William S., the junior member of J. H. Price & Company, and Hannah Ruan, now the wife of Edward C. Bent, Chicago, Ill. The mother of these children died July 16, 1870, in Lucas county, Ohio, and Mr. Price married Maranda Buchanan, of Pickering county, Ohio. The following children, who are now living, were born to this union: Rosada, lives in California; Archie, Cassoday, Kans.; James, Butler county, Kansas; and Sherrod S., Blue Mound, Kans. The wife

and mother of these children is deceased, and the present Mrs. Price bore the maiden name of Sarah Bowman. Mr. Price is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Methodist Episcopal church, and is of pleasing personality and courteous manner, which has won for him many friends in the community.

**George J. Benson**, of the firm of Kramer & Benson, one of the leading law firms of Butler county, located at El Dorado, is the second son of William F. and Margaret Benson, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. George J. Benson was born October 27, 1883, in Chelsea township, Butler county, Kansas. He attended country school until prepared for high school and then entered the El Dorado High School and was graduated in the class of 1903. He graduated from the law department of Kansas University with a degree of L. L. B. in 1906, and passed the State bar examination and was admitted to the bar in June, 1906. Mr. Benson began the practice of law in El Dorado July 1, 1906, associated with T. A. Kramer, and later became a partner under the firm name of Kramer & Benson.

Mr. Benson was married June 1, 1910, to Miss Mabel Sinclair, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Sinclair, of El Dorado, Kans. (a sketch of Mr. Sinclair appears in this volume). To Mr. and Mrs. Benson has been born one child, George Sinclair Benson, Jr., born December 2, 1911. Mr. Benson was elected county attorney of Butler county on the Democratic ticket in November, 1913, and served one term in a capable and satisfactory manner.

Mr. Benson is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Phi Delta Phi. He is a Democrat and has taken a prominent part in promoting the welfare of his party in this county, and has been chairman and secretary of the Democratic county central committee. He is a capable lawyer and an untiring student of the intricacies of the law, and his courteous and genial manner has won many friends.

**George Hamilton**, proprietor of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Augusta, Kans., is one of the popular hotel men of southern Kansas. He was born in Durham, England, September 25, 1879, and is a son of Samuel H. and Anna (Pettigrew) Hamilton, the former a native of England, and the latter of New York. George Hamilton is the oldest of a family of four children, the others being as follows: John, was in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake in 1906, and has never been heard of since; Thomas, lives in San Diego, Cal.; and Maggie, whose present address is unknown.

George Hamilton came to Wichita with his parents in 1887, when he was about eight years old and three years later the family removed to Butler county, where he received the greater part of his education and learned plumbing and metal working, and followed that line of business until May, 1915, when he leased the Fifth Avenue Hotel, which is the principal hotel of Augusta, and in fact the most complete

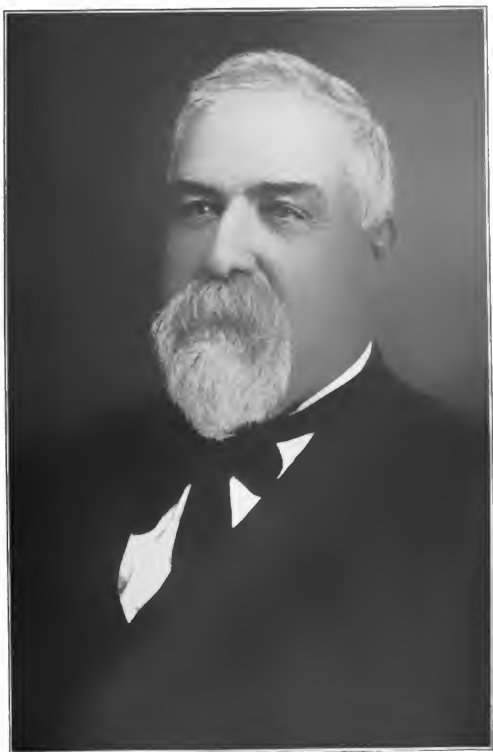
hotel in Butler county. It is a massive stone structure, two stories high and is practically new. Mr. Hamilton made a wise move in engaging in the hotel business at the time he did. Augusta was just in the dawn of its new era, the great industrial activity accompanying the oil and gas development in that section, and practically since Mr. Hamilton took the Fifth Avenue Hotel, the place has been crowded to its limit. The house is well furnished and is a modern hotel in every particular and is conducted on the European plan.

Mr. Hamilton was married at Wichita, Kans., in 1915 to Miss Grace Lakin, of Lincoln, Neb., whose parents were pioneers of that city.

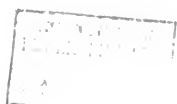
Mr. Hamilton's father died at Petersborough, Canada, in 1886, and the mother now resides at Rose Hill, Butler county, Kansas. Mr. Hamilton is a member of the Masonic lodge, having been made a Mason in 1906. Since engaging in the hotel business, he has proven to be a popular landlord and has made many friends among the patrons of his hotel.

**Alvah Shelden** was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., January 15 1849. His mother, whose maiden name was Louisa Vaught, was of Dutch parentage, his father, Benjamin Shelden, of German descent. This ancestry accounted, in later life, for much of the thrift, economy, and steadfastness of purpose shown in his character. When Alvah Shelden was three years of age, his parents moved to Little Rock, Ark., and a year, or so later, to Helena, Karnes county, Texas, where his father was shot and killed in 1859 in his own dooryard by a rebel sympathizer or "copperhead," because of his fearless and out-spoken anti-slavery sentiments. Martin Vaught, a brother of Mrs. Shelden, then living in Jefferson county, Kansas, started at once for Texas to bring back his widowed sister and five children: Olive, Alvah, Marion, Mary and John. He went on horseback, starting early in October, 1859, making the trip in thirty-five days. He remained in Texas until May, 1860, settling up affairs, when they started for Kansas in a covered wagon, drawn by five yokes of oxen. They also drove fifty head of cattle and eight horses through, making the trip in six weeks. The family had several adventures and miraculous escapes, coming through Texas and the Indian territory in that early period of their history, notably when crossing the Red River and the Cimarron, some Mexicans, who were assisting the stock to swim the rivers, were nearly drowned, and at other times, the Indians made several attempts to stampede the cattle. These incidents seem quite thrilling to relate in these days of high civilization in the Oklahoma State.

The Shelden family finally arrived at Chelsea, after their tempestuous trip, piloted by the ever faithful "Uncle Mart." They remained until fall and then went to Paris, Ill., to live with Alvah's grandfather, John Vaught, a prominent and well-to-do farmer, where they remained until 1868. The "Call of Kansas" appealed to Alvah, now



ALVAH SHELDEN





nineteen years of age, and as the head of the family, he, with them, turned westward, stopping in Chase county, Kansas, on the south fork of the Cottonwood river, and rented a farm. It was a bounteous crop year, and by dint of hard work and much saving, the family had a little money which they decided to put into a home. They came again to Chelsea township, and bought 240 acres of school-land on Cole creek. They built a native lumber house, much of it walnut, and Alvah, aided by his younger brothers and Uncle Martin Vaught, framed it finished it. Everyone who is at all familiar with early Kansas history, appreciates the hardships and privations incident to the development and the paying for a home at that time. Upon Alvah, the eldest of the three sons, the burden of it rested, but by his indomitable pluck and energy he accomplished it.

Always from a youth up, an inveterate reader, from the use of his grandfather's library, and from the country school, which he attended, he acquired his education. Aided by keen observation power, by an understanding of human nature and things, it was a liberal one. In 1872, he taught his first country school; in 1874, he was assistant cashier in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of El Dorado, and in 1876, he was elected county superintendent of public instruction of Butler county. He was married January 28, 1877, to Miss Mary M. Lamb of Douglass. She was a teacher in the Douglass schools, and their courtship dated from the first time they met, at the first teacher's institute in Augusta in April, 1872. Of this union there were six children born: Bertram Benjamin, June 29, 1878; Mary Myrtle, August 17, 1879; Chester Conkling, August 30, 1880; Lida Lou, September 3, 1882; Bernice Barbara, July 19, 1885; and Marjorie Jane, October 14, 1890. Bertram died February 21, 1882, and Bernice, August 22, 1902.

In 1878 Mr. Shelden was re-elected to the superintendency of the county schools. In 1879 he was appointed postmaster of El Dorado to succeed Mrs. M. J. Long. He held the office five years. In March, 1881, he bought the "Walnut Valley Times" of T. B. Murdock, which he owned and edited thirty years. March 1, 1911, he retired from active work, transferring his newspaper and business to his son, Chester C. Shelden, who now conducts it. It was in June of the same year that he was stricken with angina pectoris, a disease of the heart, from which he never recovered, dying December 17, 1911. No more fitting summary of his biography could be written than this from his old time friend and newspaper associate, George F. Fullenwider: "As a writer, Mr. Shelden was apt and forceful, and as an editor, able and emphatic, with opinions all his own, expressed tersely and plain. As a business man he was conservative, prompt, firm and successful. He was one whose advice and opinions were sought by his fellows, and considered sound. As a citizen, he was honored and respected; as a friend, he was loyal and true. He was kind as a woman, big-hearted, generous to a fault, discriminating in his friendships and unyielding in his condemna-

tion of wrong doing. He was always interested in the welfare of the community, and his efforts were in behalf of progress and enterprise. During his regime, the "Times" was a welcome visitor in more homes in Butler county, perhaps, than any other paper ever published here. He was always reaching out for the best in the newspaper world, nothing was too good for his paper and its readers. So well did he succeed that he ranked with the very best in the State, and he enjoyed a wide reputation as a writer and editor of ability. In proof of his enterprise, his special editions of which he issued more than any man in the State, namely the "Pink Edition," "Old Soldiers' Edition," "Farmers' and Stockmen's Edition," "Woman's Edition," have gone down in history, as some of the brightest and best newspaper work of that kind in Kansas. His public life and work is done, no more will he furnish "copy," or correct proof. The foreman has called "thirty" on his hook, and readers will look in vain for locals and editorials from his pen, but the fleeting years, in their onward march, cannot efface the memory of his good deeds, the influence he exerted, nor can time blot out the numberless pages he has written and left as a record for generations yet unborn."

**W. H. Noble**, proprietor of the J. M. Noble & Son furniture store of El Dorado, is one of the progressive young business men of Butler county, and the J. M. Noble & Son furniture store is one of the oldest and most extensive retail furniture stores in the county. This business was established in 1882 by J. M. McAnally, and later the firm became McAnally & Musselman, and in 1884 J. M. Noble bought Musselman's interest, and the firm became McAnally & Noble, and this firm continued to do business until February 10, 1913. Mr. McAnally died in 1910, but the estate retained his interest until the above mentioned date when Mr. Noble purchased the McAnally interest, and a strange coincidence in connection with this transaction was, that on the very day that the deal was closed, Mr. Noble died, suddenly, at Champaign, Ill., and since that time, his son, W. H. Noble, whose name introduces this sketch, has conducted the business.

Mr. Noble is thoroughly awake to the progress made in the various branches of the furniture business, and carries a much more complete and larger line than is usually found outside of the large cities. He aims to carry the best line of goods to be found on the market, among which might be mentioned the Sealy mattress, Liggett-Platt springs, Globe-Wernicke book cases, the Springfield model kitchen cabinet and the twin pedestal tables.

W. H. Noble is a native of Butler county and was born in El Dorado, December 5, 1887. His parents, J. M. and Sarah A. (Dickson) Noble were natives of Pennsylvania and Ireland respectively. Mrs. Noble came to this country with her parents when she was a child, and has made three trips across the Atlantic. She now resides in Wichita. J. M. Noble removed from Pennsylvania to Champaign county,

Illinois, at an early day and from there came to Butler county, Kansas, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising until 1884, when he engaged in a furniture business, which he followed until the time of his death. He was sixty-one years of age. To J. M. Noble and wife were born two children, as follows: Jennie L., married George Anderson and resides at Alva, Okla.; and W. H., the subject of this sketch.

W. H. Noble was reared in El Dorado and educated in the public schools and Brumbach Academy and the College of Emporia. He was then employed about two and one-half years as clerk in the Missouri Pacific office in El Dorado, when he took over the management of the greenhouse and florist business which his mother had started some years previously. She is a great lover of flowers, and engaged in that work, first, for her own recreation and satisfaction, but by 1907 the constantly growing demand developed it into a commercial enterprise of considerable proportions, and at that time W. H. took charge of the business. He successfully conducted it until 1912, when he disposed of it, and after the death of his father's partner, he assisted in the furniture store until 1913, and since that time has devoted himself exclusively to the furniture business.

Mr. Noble was united in marriage September 15, 1907, with Mary Esther Tolle, a daughter of George W. Tolle, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Noble have been born three children: Billy, Jack and Mary Esther. Mr. Noble is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and is a Democrat, and takes a keen interest in the affairs of his party, and has served as secretary of the Democratic central committee of Butler county.

**William H. Sandifer.**—The Sandifer family is a pioneer family of Butler county, but they are more particularly a pioneer family in a broader and more comprehensive sense, dating back to Revolutionary times, and their members have been conspicuous as pioneers, soldiers and citizens of sterling worth, in connection with the history of this country for the past 150 years. The founder of the Sandifer family in America was William Sandifer who, before the days of the American Revolution, was engaged in the transfer business in his native city, London, England, and during the war with the Colonies, he was conscripted and forced into the English army. His sympathies, prior to that time, had been with the Colonies, and this act of conscription by the government did not change his views but strengthened his sympathy with the revolutionists. However, he served with the English army for a time, his command being located in South Carolina, and there is where the romance began that made the young Englishmen a full-fledged American. He met Sally Brockman, a typical American girl of colonial times, and their friendship ripened into love, and they became engaged. Soon afterwards, young Sandifer deserted from the English army and enlisted in Washington's army, and fought in its ranks for the American cause until the close of the war. He was wounded at the battle of Brandywine, receiving a

saber cut on the scalp which never fully healed. After the war he returned to South Carolina to claim his bride, believing that he had become sufficiently Americanized to marry an American girl. They were married and a few years afterwards went to Kentucky. This was shortly after that section of the country had been explored by the renowned Daniel Boone. William Sandifer and his wife spent the remainder of their lives and reared a family on the frontier of the "dark and bloody ground" of Kentucky.

One of the children born to William Sandifer and Sally Brockman was Joseph Sandifer, who was born in South Carolina, and like his father, he was a soldier and frontiersman. He served in the American army during the war of 1812, and fought under General Harrison at the battle of the Thames, where the celebrated Shawnee Chief Tecumseh was killed, and Sandifer saw the chief fall, as he was shot, and a comrade of his, named Cornwall Edwards, secured the old chief's rifle, during the battle. Mr. Sandifer often related the incident and described the gun in detail. He said it was of English make with a slight nick in the barrel, and that he often fired it himself. In later life Joseph Sandifer removed from Kentucky to Missouri. He died at Palmyra, Mo. Joseph Sandifer was the grandfather of William H., whose name introduces this sketch.

George M. Sandifer was a son of Joseph Sandifer and was born on Hanging Fork creek, Ky., July 21, 1832. He spent his boyhood days in Kentucky, and in early life learned photography and for a time was located at Somerset, Ky., and later at Liberty and Lancaster, that State. About 1858, he went to Knoxville, Tenn., where he remained about two years. Then he went to Rome, Ga., and was conducting a photograph studio there when the Civil war broke out, and he enlisted in the Third regiment, Georgia cavalry, serving in General Wheeler's division, Hardee's Corps of Bragg's army. In the early part of the war, he was promoted to quartermaster with rank of captain, and much of the time was quartermaster of General Wheeler's division. At the close of the war, he returned to Rome, Ga., where he remained for a time, when he came back to his old Kentucky home, and after remaining for a time at Stanford, he went to Somerset, Ky., and conducted a steam mill until 1877, when he came to Kansas with his family. They drove through the entire distance from Kentucky to Butler county, and settled on a farm in Prospect township, three miles east of El Dorado. Here the father followed farming until 1891, when he again engaged in photography at El Dorado. He was an expert in his work, and had an extensive patronage. He disposed of his business in May, 1905, and died December 22, of that year, at the age of seventy-three. He was a member of the Christian church and was a Knights Templar Mason. His wife, to whom he was married at Somerset, Ky., bore the maiden name of Kazira Patterson Dutton. She was a native of Somerset and a daughter of J. S. and Martha (Chesney) Dutton, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, the former a son of David Dutton, a native of Germany, and an early settler in Kentucky.

J. S. Dutton came to Kansas and located at El Dorado in 1871, where he spent the balance of his life. He died in August, 1886, and his wife passed away about the same time.

George M. and Kazira Patterson (Dutton) Sandifer were the parents of the following children: William H., the subject of this sketch; Carrie, the wife of Judge G. P. Aikman, of El Dorado; Walter, died at the age of twenty; James, El Dorado; John, died at the age of fourteen, and Henry G., of El Dorado.

William H. Sandifer was born at Liberty, Casey county, Kentucky, December 26, 1857, and received a good common school education in his native State. He came to Kansas with his parents in 1875, as did the other members of the family, and was engaged in farming and stock raising in Prospect township until 1903. He then went to California, and after spending a few months returned to Butler county, and for twelve years was superintendent of the Butler county poor farm and since 1915 has been in the employ of an El Dorado lumber company.

Mr. Sandifer was married February 20, 1890, to Miss Belle Friend, of Austin, Tex., a daughter of John S. Friend, who now resides at El Dorado, Kans. The Friend family were early settlers in Butler county, coming here in 1868, when Mrs. Sandifer was a baby. To Mr. and Mrs. Sandifer was born one child, Ruth, now the wife of F. R. Thompson, who conducts the leading book and jewelry store of El Dorado, Kan. Mr. Sandifer is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Modern Woodmen of America, the Anti-Horse Thief Association, and belongs to the Christian church.

**Strother Gaines Pottle** has for a number of years been prominent in the affairs of Butler county, and is one of the best known men in this section of the State. Mr. Pottle was born in Springfield, Ill., February 24, 1862, and is a son of Daniel and Mary Ellen (Jones) Pottle. The father was a native of Bracken county, Kentucky, and a son of Jeremiah and Martha E. (McDaniel) Pottle, the former a native of Maine and the latter of Kentucky. Daniel Pottle was born in 1834, and in 1835 was brought to Illinois by his parents, who spent the remainder of their lives in that State. Mary Ellen Jones, his mother, was a daughter of Strother G. Jones, and came from Kentucky to Illinois with her parents in 1845. The Jones family settled in Springfield, where the father was engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-six, and his remains are buried in Oak Ridge cemetery, Springfield, Ill.

S. G. Pottle was one of a family of four children, born to his parents, the others being Jeremiah and Homer, who died in childhood, and Laura, who married S. J. Ecker, of Leon, Kans., and they now reside at Natchitoches, La. She was a Butler county teacher for a number of years prior to her marriage. The mother of these children died, and the father married for his second wife, Mary E. Ford, of Sangamon county, Ill., and one child was born to this union, Lulu, now

the wife of Harry E. Wagenseller, of Springfield, Ill. Her mother died in 1878, and shortly afterwards the father and S. G. came to Kansas, locating in Pleasant township, where the father was quite extensively engaged in the cattle business until 1910 when he retired and went to live with his daughter, remaining there until his death, August 12, 1912. He was seventy-eight years old, and his remains rest in the National cemetery at Alexander, La. During the Civil war he served in Company I, Ninth Illinois cavalry. His sight became impaired, during his service in the army, and he never fully recovered from the affliction. He was a great student all his life and especially well posted on the Bible.

S. G. Pottle was about sixteen years of age when he came to Butler county with his father, and for several years followed farming. He received a good common school education and attended the Augusta High School, and after following teaching for a time, entered the Fort Scott Business College, where he graduated in 1884. He also attended the Fort Scott Normal College after which he again taught school in Butler county, his last position in that line of work being the principalship of the Leon High School. He was editor and owner of The Leon "Indicator" for a few months, when he disposed of that paper to accept the position of deputy county clerk, under T. O. Castle and served for four years. He was also deputy clerk to John T. Evans for four years, and in 1895, he was elected to that office, and re-elected in 1897, serving two terms, and during the latter year was the only Republican elected to office in the county and also was the only Republican county officer left in the county. In January, 1900, Mr. Pottle accepted a position with the "Mail and Breeze" and took an active part in the State political campaign of that year. In 1901 he was appointed a deputy revenue collector in the United States revenue service for the district of Kansas and Oklahoma, and in that capacity served under Collectors Sutton and Simpson, serving until January, 1, 1905, with headquarters at Leavenworth, Kans. He then returned to El Dorado and was employed in the El Dorado National Bank for four years, and for about two years was engaged in railroad construction work. In April, 1915, he was appointed receiver of the Citizens State Bank at Chautauqua, Kans., and since that time has given his undivided attention to the affairs of that institution.

Mr. Pottle was married December 25, 1887, to Miss Gertie Godwin of Augusta, Kans., a daughter of H. C. Godwin, a Civil war veteran who was accidentally killed by a boiler explosion when Mrs. Pottle was a child. To Mr. and Mrs. Pottle have been born four children, as follows: Ethel, married H. C. Wear, Wichita, Kans.; Harry, an employee of the Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau, Wichita, Kans.; Floyd, a student in the Miller Business College, Wichita, Kans.; and Lucille, a student in the Wichita High School.

Mr. Pottle is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Sons of Veterans,

Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Maccabees, Knights of Pythias and the Eastern Star. Since boyhood Mr. Pottle has taken an active part in politics, and has always been identified with the Republican party. He has been chairman of the Butler county central committee, a member of the State central committee, and on numerous occasions has been a delegate to county, congressional and State conventions, and in 1900 attended the Republican National convention. He is well known as a capable accountant, and has many friends.

**J. F. Glendenning**, pioneer, farmer, probate judge and for many years one of the foremost influential constituents of Butler county, a native of Missouri, was born in Gentry county, a son of John and Slizabeth (Carter) Glendenning. His parental ancestors were early settlers in America. His great-grandfather, William Glendenning, a native of Scotland, served for eight years as a member of the Continental lines in the War of the Revolution. His son, Henry Glendenning, the grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the War of 1812, as was also his maternal grandfather, Eliza Carter.

John Glendenning was one of the pioneer settlers of the State of Missouri, locating in that State in 1838. He underwent the vicissitudes common to that pioneer period and took an active part in the Indian wars in his day, as well as suppressing the robber bands which infested the State at that time. John Glendenning was reared on his father's farm and acquired his education in the schools of that day and vicinity. He was one of a family of eleven children, the youngest of whom reached the age of 40 years before a single death occurred. In 1866 he moved to Iowa, locating at Lineville, where he engaged in the drug business with an elder brother who was one of the prominent physicians of that State. This association was dissolved in 1871, and our subject came to Butler county where he located on a claim in Pleasant township, which he later improved, operated and which he still owns and on which he lived until 1901, when he removed to El Dorado to occupy the office of probate judge.

At the time he came to Butler county, buffalo were numerous, and within hunting distance, as were prairie chickens, wild turkeys and wild game of all kinds. During his residence in Pleasant township, he held all of the various township offices, and was also a member of the school board the greater part of the time. In 1900 he was elected on the Republican ticket to the office of probate judge, and his administration of this office was such that he was elected for a second term in 1902, succeeding which he served as police judge of the city of El Dorado for four years.

Mr. Glendenning, during his residence in Butler county, not only filled his offices with credit to himself, but to the satisfaction of his constituents, and was also recognized as one of the most successful of agriculturists. In 1909, ill health necessitated his removal to a more equal climate. He removed to Texas, where he has since resided.

However, he still expects to spend a few of his remaining years upon his old home place and to enjoy spending the fortune which will undoubtedly come to him through the oil and gas which underlies his lands.

On May 29, 1873, Mr. Glendenning married Experience Sarah Martin, a daughter of George and Nancy (Liggett) Martin. She was born and reared in Livingston county, Missouri, and educated in its public schools. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are the parents of two children and have also educated three nieces.

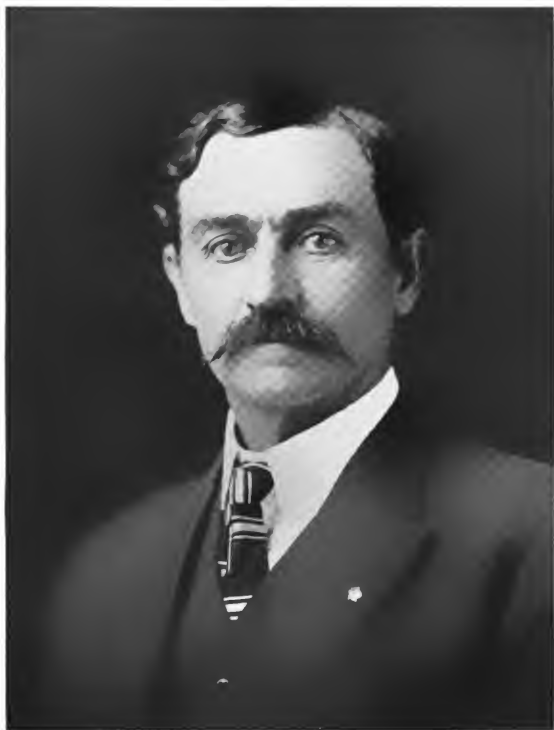
While a resident of Pleasant township, Mr. Glendenning was associated with Sunday school and church work with Daniel Pickett, one of the prominent and influential workers of the Friends church.

Mr. Glendenning, during the late difference between the States, served as a member of the Union forces for a term of eight months, serving under Capt. Joseph Carter.

**Walter Fletcher McGinnis.**—Until recently, Butler county has been known only as one of the great agriculture and live stock counties of the commonwealth of Kansas. The development of oil and gas with hundreds of producing wells and others being drilled every day, has added a new and all important phase to industrial Butler county and bids fair to make this county one of the largest in population as well as in area in the State. The development of this great oil and gas district has not come about by mere chance nor accident, but by persistent working out of well laid plans, and Walter F. McGinnis is entitled to no small amount of credit in connection with the discovery and development in this territory, and may well be called the original oil booster of this district.

Mr. McGinnis became interested in the oil business as early as 1886, and he, with others, drilled a well at that time on Riverside, but without results. However, his interest in the delusive fluid did not abate. He kept turning the oil proposition over in his mind, and in 1912, he began taking oil leases in Butler county, and began to interest some outside oil capitalists in this field, and the result was that a test well on the Stapleton place in the fall of 1915, revealed the presence of oil in profitable quantities, at a depth of between 525 and 700 and 2500 feet. Then followed a wild scramble for leases and it was then that it developed that Mr. McGinnis' foresight had been working, and he had hundreds of acres leased before the test on the Stapleton farm proclaimed the glad tidings of the underground wealth of Butler county. His Linn farm lease alone, on which he, with three other gentlemen, have brought in a number of very profitable oil producing wells, has made a fortune already. Besides being the largest individual lease holder of Butler county, Mr. McGinnis has extensive lease interests in Elk county where he has interests in over 20,000 acres of prospective oil and gas lands, as he also has in Oklahoma. He is an oil optimist, but not the kind who just hopes for the best, but he is the kind of an optimist who gets busy and gets the best by going after it.





WALTER F. MCGINNIS



Walter F. McGinnis is a native son of Kansas; he was born in Coffey county, October 31, 1860, a son of Dr. James Allen and Sarah Ann (Benedict) McGinnis, the former a native of Vermillion county, Indiana, and the latter of Meigs county, Ohio. The McGinnis family comes from an ancient and honorable line of Irish ancestors who trace their lineage back through ages of the history of Ireland; and members of this family were prominent in that country when the four ancient kingdoms of Ireland were in the zenith of their glory.

The McGinnis family was founded in America in the early part of the eighteenth century by John McGinnis who emigrated from Ireland, coming from County Antrim, and settled in Pennsylvania. The direct line of descent from him to Walter F. McGinnis, the subject of this sketch, is as follows; James, son of John; Edmund, son of James; Edmund, Jr., son of Edmund; Dr. Ira Edmund, son of Edmund, Jr.; Dr. James Allen McGinnis, son of Dr. Ira Edmund; Walter Fletcher McGinnis, son of Dr. James Allen McGinnis; and Walter Fletcher McGinnis, has a son, Walter Fletcher, Jr., who is the eighth generation of the McGinnis family in America, which, perhaps, covers a period of two hundred years of the family in this country. There were twenty-one members of this branch of the McGinnis family who served in the Revolutionary war, in behalf of the cause of American independence, and there has never been a white man's war in this country since that time in which some member or members of this family have not served under the stars and stripes. There were at least two in the United States fleet that landed at Vera Cruz, Mexico, during the late trouble with Huerta; and Ward Allen McGinnis, a nephew, an officer, is now with the Oklahoma militia on the Mexican border.

Dr. James Allen McGinnis, father of Walter F., was born in Vermillion county, Indiana, June 5, 1836; he married Sarah Ann Benedict, March 28, 1858. She was born in Meigs county, Ohio, December 23, 1837. Dr. McGinnis came to Kansas in 1854, when he was eighteen years of age. He settled in Coffey county and located on a claim adjoining what is now the town of Hartford. Because he was under age, a professional "claim-jumper" undertook to "jump" his claim, but the boy showed a clear abstract of title in the form of a rifle, and the bad man moved on in search of milder methods of opposition. Dr. McGinnis was a prominent factor in the early day development of Coffey county, and represented that county in the legislature in 1868-69. In 1869 he came to Butler county with his two motherless boys, and located twenty-five miles southeast of El Dorado, in Hickory township. That was an early day in the settlement of that part of the county. When he located there he built a good substantial residence, which was perhaps the best one in the county at the time; it was destroyed by the same storm that wrecked El Dorado, June 16, 1871. He took a prominent part in local affairs after coming to Butler county, moving to El Dorado, the nearest school or church, in November, 1873, and served

six years as county commissioner, and in 1883 was elected registrar of deeds and served in that capacity four years. He also served as mayor and councilman of El Dorado. In 1894 he removed to Dewey county, Oklahoma, where he died April 5, 1912. His wife had preceded him in death a number of years, she having passed away March 13, 1867, in Coffey county. They were the parents of three children, as follows: Walter F., the subject of this sketch; S. Arthur, born November 10, 1866, a prominent attorney of Guthrie, Okla. He was captain of Troop I of Roosevelt's regiment of Rough Riders, during the Spanish-American war, and in his professional capacity, was attorney for the Daws Commission. One child, Flora Viola, died in infancy.

Dr. James Allen McGinnis was one of the first to enlist in response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers to defend the Union in the early sixties, and served for four years. President Lincoln appointed him first lieutenant in the regular army and assigned him to volunteer service. He was a member of Company D, Ninth Kansas cavalry and served in a manner befitting the brave soldier that he was. During the early days, he served in the secret service of the Government along the border. It fell to his lot to deal with the bad men of the plains, cattle rustlers and desperadoes that infested the new country and made life dangerous and property insecure on the frontier. Dr. McGinnis had many encounters with men of that type, and usually got his man when he went after him, and he went after a great many of them during his time. He was one of the dominant factors in organizing the vigilance committee who meted out summary justice to some of the notorious characters of the early history of Butler county, after which the property and lives of the early settlers were more secure. He practiced medicine for fifty years, twenty-one of which were in Butler county.

Walter F. McGinnis attended his first school in Coffey county, in an old log house, and later he attended more pretentious public schools as the country developed. After obtaining a good common school education, he attended business college at Topeka, Kans. He then studied medicine two years. It was then that he decided that a medical career was not to his liking, and he engaged in the real estate and loan business in El Dorado. He began business here in 1884, which he has successfully conducted to the present time. He has also been engaged in the general insurance business all these years. On January 1, 1913, the Home Insurance Company presented him with a silver medal in recognition of twenty-five years of continuous and successful work for that company.

Mr. McGinnis was united in marriage, June 23, 1885, with Miss Ida May Surdam of Towanda, Kans. She is a daughter of Tunis Surdam, a Butler county pioneer who settled in this county in the early seventies. To Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis have been born the following children: Jennie Faith, married Howard Bennett, an El Dorado attorney; Hazle Hope, married Jud P. Hall, El Dorado; Adah Aletha, a

graduate of the El Dorado High School, class of 1916; Walter Fletcher, Jr., a member of the class of 1917, El Dorado High School, and Pauline Lillian, a student in the grade schools. The McGinnis family is well known and prominent in the community, and Mr. McGinnis is one of the progressive business men who are making a reputation for El Dorado as a city that does things.

**William Houston Betz**, superintendent of the city water works of El Dorado, is a native of Ohio, born at Lima, July 28, 1868. His parents were Henry and Mary (Shumberger) Betz, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. The Betz family were among the early settlers of El Dorado, locating here in 1869, when William Houston of this review was about a year old. Their first home was on North Main street where the Commercial hotel now stands. They drove the entire distance from Ohio to Kansas, which was a long, tedious journey, and in those pioneer days they followed the trail through much wild and unsettled country, before reaching Butler county. Their outfit consisted of four wagons, one of which was a spring wagon, and they covered a distance of about 1200 miles.

After remaining in Kansas about six years, the family returned to Ohio, but two years later came back to Kansas, this time by rail as far as Florence, and continued the journey to El Dorado by stage coach. The father was engaged in buying and shipping cattle for a number of years, and later conducted a meat market in El Dorado, where he died and the mother passed away at Alton, Ill. They were the parents of the following children: Samuel, now deceased; Elizabeth, married James Johnson, and is now a widow residing at Chicago, Ill.; Christine, married Edward Stanley and resides in Kansas City, Mo.; Lewis, died at the age of twenty; Fred, a farmer, Medicine Lodge, Kans.; Henry, Philadelphia, Pa.; William H., the subject of this sketch; and Charles, Kansas City, Mo. Samuel, the eldest brother, who is now deceased, was a natural frontiersman. He frequently made extensive hunting trips into the west and southwest, in the early days when those sections of the country had scarcely a white habitation. He was a great hunter and had an extensive acquaintance with various tribes of Indians and could speak many of their tribal languages with fluency. He organized a wild west show which he conducted for a time and later sold it to Adam Forepaugh. He was an unerring shot and a great rider, and in many ways an unusual type of man. He was killed in an accident in a spoke factory in Ohio.

William H. Betz was educated in the public schools in El Dorado, and attended high school, and was a schoolmate of Willam Allen White. From the time he was twelve years old, he practically made his own way in the world. He worked at odd jobs until he was seventeen years old, when he entered the employ of the Missouri Pacific railroad as switchman and remained in the train service of that road for thirteen years. He then entered the employ of C. L. Turner as an implement and buggy salesman, and followed that vocation for seven years. In Febru-

ary, 1906, Mr. Betz became superintendent of the El Dorado city waterworks. He is also superintendent of the sewer system, which includes a septic tank, which was built at a cost of \$12,000 during his administration of that department. Mr. Betz is a close student of the intricate and important problem of city water supply and the most efficient and economical systems. He is a constant reader of current literature on that subject and keeps in close touch with the views and experiments of the leading experts along those lines throughout the country.

Mr. Betz was united in marriage in November, 1889, with Miss Winona Payton, a native of Ironton, Ohio. She came to Kansas with her parents, William and Sarelda Payton, when she was a child. The father is now deceased and the mother resides at Newton, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. Betz have been born the following children: Grace, married William Rowell, proprietor of the Gem Theater, El Dorado; Mabel, married M. S. Smock, El Dorado; William and Irene. Mr. Betz is a Republican and is a member of the Masonic Lodge; Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Modern Woodmen of America, and Knights and Ladies of Security. The family are members of the Christian church.

**L. L. Kiser**, well known in the affairs of Butler county, is a native of Tippecanoe county, Indiana. He was born November 2, 1855, and is a son of Levi and Elizabeth (Chester) Kiser, the farmer a native of Ohio and the latter of New Jersey. Levi Kiser came to Indiana with his parents when he was a child. He grew to manhood in that State, and in 1856 went to Iowa with his wife and family, settling in Johnson county, near Iowa City. He was one of the pioneers of that section and remained there until 1878, when he removed with his family to Kansas, settling in Little Walnut township, Butler county. He was one of the incorporators of the town of Leon, a member of the town-site company, and served as mayor of the town for two or three terms. He was engaged in the mercantile business at Leon for a number of years, but retired from active business a few years before his death. He died at Leon in 1908, aged eighty-four years. His wife died in Iowa in 1872.

L. L. Kiser was one of a family of seven children who grew to maturity. He was about a year old when his parents removed from Indiana to Iowa where he was reared and educated in the public schools and in 1878 came to Butler county, Kansas, and for fifteen years, he and two of his brothers were engaged in contracting and building. He then entered the real estate, loan and insurance business at El Dorado, and in 1915, moved to his farm three miles south of El Dorado, where he has 280 acres of land and is engaged quite extensively in general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Kiser was first married in 1882, to Miss Grace A. Gard, a native of Illinois, and two children were born to this union: Louis, Bristol, Col., and Clara, married Jesse L. Biggs, Potwin, Kans. The wife and mother died in 1887, and in 1889, Mr. Kiser married Miss

Mary L. Applegate, a native of Winterset, Iowa, who came to Kansas in 1882. She was a successful Butler county teacher for a number of years prior to her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Kiser have been born three children, as follows: Glen E., a reporter on the Wichita "Beacon;" Ruth, a stenographer in El Dorado, and Celest E., residing at home.

Mr. Kiser has taken an active part in public affairs since coming to Butler county and since coming to El Dorado has been active in the development and betterment of the city. He has served as chairman of the Commercial Club, and was active in promoting the oil development in this section as well as taking an active part in the furthering of municipal improvements such as pavement and other progressive and substantial city improvements. He is independent in politics and for twenty years has been an opponent of partisan politics in city government, and has had the satisfaction of seeing his principles in that particular finally win in El Dorado. He is a member of the Fraternal Aid and the Modern Woodmen of America and belongs to the Christian church of which he has been an elder for a number of years. He was active in the work of giving the congregation in El Dorado a new church and served as a member of the building committee. Mr. Kiser is one of the foremost and public spirited citizens of Butler county.

**Christopher Leonidas Aikman** was born at London, Ky., October 22, 1865, and is a son of William A. and Martha A. Aikman. He located at Towanda, Butler county, Kansas, with his parents in 1871, and attended country school, and school at Augusta and El Dorado for a number of years, and afterwards he attended Fort Scott Normal College, Fort Scott, Kans.

Mr. Aikman taught school for a number of years at Towanda, Haverhill, Rosalia and White Station. He was admitted to practice law in 1889. For two years he was a partner in the practice of law with the late Major Kilgore at El Dorado. Afterwards he became a partner with Judge G. P. Aikman, when in 1905, the partnership was dissolved by the election of G. P. Aikman to the office of district judge of the Thirteenth judicial district.

In 1905 C. L. Aikman was elected county attorney of Butler county, and was re-nominated for the same office in 1907 without opposition and was reelected. In 1912 Mr. Aikman was again nominated without opposition for the office of county attorney, but he declined to make the race. In 1915, he and his brother, Judge G. P. Aikman, again formed a partnership in the practice of law. Their practice is second to none at El Dorado, and they enjoy a large practice in different parts of the State. Besides being a lawyer, Mr. Aikman is a lover of thoroughbred Jersey cattle and has some of the best to be found anywhere.

Mr. Aikman was married to Anna D. Gilbert December 31, 1894, at Nevada, Mo.

**W. E. Brown**, cashier of the Geo. W. Brown & Son State Bank, Augusta, Kans., is one of Butler county's substantial bankers, and is identified with one of the oldest financial institutions in the county. W. E. Brown is a native of Illinois and a son of Geo. W. and Mary J. (Weaver) Brown, natives of New York. They were the parents of three children, W. E., the subject of this sketch, being the only surviving member of the family. George W. Brown, the father, was a Butler county pioneer and established one of the first banks in the county.

In 1870, he came to Augusta to build the land office building for the Government, an institution which was located at Augusta for several years before its removal to Wichita. About the time that he completed his government contract, in 1870, George W. Brown and his brother, C. W., organized Brown Brothers Bank at Augusta which was the beginning of the Geo. W. Brown & Son State Bank which is doing business in Augusta today. This is one of the substantial banks of Butler county and has a long and honorable business record to its credit. It might be said of this bank that it is big enough to accommodate its customers and not too big to appreciate them. George W. Brown, one of the founders of this institution, was the pioneer banker of Butler county. The bank did business under the firm name of Brown Brothers until 1887, when it was changed to Geo. W. Brown & Son and later incorporated under the name of the State Bank, George W. Brown remaining president of the bank until his death December 25, 1914.

While Mr. Brown remained a dominant factor of the institution during his lifetime, he spent the last fifteen years of his life in travel and maintained his home at Daytona, Fla. In 1902, he made a trip around the world, starting from San Francisco and visiting Honolulu, Japan, China, Philippine Islands, and returning home by way of the Mediterranean and New York. George W. Brown was not only a pioneer banker of Butler county but was also a prominent factor in the early day settlement and development of Augusta. He was one of the incorporators of the town of August and took a keen interest in the social, moral and industrial development of the town during his lifetime. He was a capable business man and known for his methodical methods in the daily conduct of his vast business affairs. He was a quiet, unassuming man, and while best known as a successful financier, he possessed many noble qualities of mind and heart that towered above any sordid nature and was best liked by those who knew him most intimately.

W. E. Brown, whose name introduces this sketch, came to Butler county with his parents in 1870. He received his education in the public schools of Augusta, the Western Military Academy, Alton, Ill., and Baker University, Baldwin, Kans. He then engaged in the jewelry business in Baldwin, Kans., which was his first business venture. In 1886 he entered his father's bank at Augusta, in the capacity of bookkeeper, and shortly afterward was made cashier, which position he has since held. Mr. Brown has had a broad experience in the banking world, besides



having had the advantage of a careful training in the intricate field of finance under the supervision of his father. He is recognized as one of the able financiers of southern Kansas. Notwithstanding his busy career in the private field of finance, he has taken a commendable interest in public affairs and when twenty-four years of age was elected mayor of Augusta and as such conducted the affairs of the city in such a commendable way that at the expiration of a term of three years, he was re-elected. He has also been a member of the city council.

Mr. Brown was united in marriage at Augusta, February 4, 1891, to Miss Icy M. Rodgers, of Augusta, whose parents were pioneers of Walnut township. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born three children, as follows. George W., Jr., died at the age of two years; Pauline and Dorothea, both of whom reside with their parents.

**M. M. Gregg**, a Kansas pioneer who had much to do with the early development of Butler county, is a native of Missouri. He was born in Washington county, May 21, 1847, and is a son of John R. and Elizabeth (Maxwell) Gregg, the former a native of Washington county, Missouri, and the latter of Washington county, Virginia. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Theodore lives in Arkansas; Marshall, Decatur, Tex.; Walter, Decatur, Tex.; Philo, Olympia, Wash.; Lucien, Willow, Cal.; Mary Alice, Olympia, Wash.; and M. M., whose name introduces this review.

M. M. Gregg received his education in the common schools of Arkansas, where the family resided until the Civil war broke out. The Greggs were loyal to the Union, and the neighborhood in which they resided was pretty generally confederate, and the Gregg family experienced considerable hardship and financial loss on account of their loyalty to the Union. However, they remained firm in their sympathy, and active in the cooperation of the Union cause. Their home was burned and various other depredations committed against them by the secessionists.

When Mr. Gregg was about nineteen years old, in 1866, he came to Kansas and settled in Jefferson county on what was then the Delaware Indian reservation, and in 1871 removed to Marion county where he took a homestead. In 1877 he came to Butler county, settling in Rock Creek township near Muddy Creek. Pine Grove postoffice was established here, and Mr. Gregg served as postmaster for seven years. When he took the office, the mail service in that section was meager and irregular, but through his efforts good service was soon obtained, and he served as postmaster of that place until 1885, when he removed to Augusta in order that his children might have better educational facilities. It has been one of Mr. Gregg's ambitions that his children might have every opportunity to obtain a good education, a privilege that was denied him in the wilds of Arkansas where he spent his boyhood days. Since coming to Augusta Mr. Gregg has followed stone construction work and plastering.

M. M. Gregg and Miss Mary E. Seed were united in marriage at Harris Grove, Jefferson county, Kansas, in 1869. Mrs. Gregg's father

was S. P. Seed, a native of New York. Her mother was Lucy Shew, a native of Indiana. She has a sister, Mrs. Anna Elliott, Norwich, Kans., and four brothers, J. W. Seed, Tumwater, Wash.; William, a Methodist minister, Olympia, Wash.; Philip, Montana, and Albert, Skiatook, Okla. To Mr. and Mrs. Gregg were born the following children: W. H., an electrical engineer, Kansas City, Mo., married Miss Sarah McNabb, Parsons, Kans.; Mrs. Angie May Thomas, Bloomington township; Mrs. Effie Clark, who lives near Haverhill, Kans.; Mrs. Mattie Morris, Winfield, Kans.; P. H., tool dresser in the oil field, married Miss Nora Fanning, of Bartlesville, Okla., and they now reside in Augusta.

Mr. Gregg came to Kansas at a time which gave him an opportunity of experiencing many of the vicissitudes of pioneer life on the plains. He relates many instances of the trials of early days. During one of the bad years in Kansas in the early eighties, like many others, he was hard up and although he had plenty of food, he had no money with which to buy clothing. A friend of his, James Bell, who resided on Rock Creek, told Mr. Gregg that he could have all the walnuts on his place, which were in abundance, if he could make any use of them. Mr. Gregg immediately proceeded to gather them up and hauled about forty bushels to Wichita, which he sold for \$1.00 a bushel with the hulls on, which tided him over the winter. Mr. Gregg says that as soon as his neighbors throughout that section learned of his lucky strike, they all immediately proceeded to gather walnuts and within a week the whole population was hauling walnuts to Wichita and flooding the market to such an extent that they were absolutely worthless. Mr. Gregg and his family are well known in Augusta where they have many friends and are highly respected.

**Thomas Benton Murdock.**—In 1841 Thomas Benton Murdock was born in the mountains of Virginia. He was one of five children who lived to maturity, of Thomas Murdock and Katherine Pierrepont. From the mother's side came the pride of the Pierreponts; from the father's the insurgent instincts of the Irish Murdocks who left Ireland after the Irish rebellion failed in 1798. So, even though reared in the mountains among most simple people and most primitive surroundings, the Murdocks who have dominated Kansas for half a century have been proud soldiers of the militant democracy. They have been fighters who led naturally, by instinct and training but never fighters for the old order. They always were pioneers, always moving out into new territory of thought and action, looking forward. Thomas and Katherine Murdock could not endure the iniquity of slavery so in 1849 they freed their slaves and left the slave country for Ohio. They settled near Ironton but lost everything they had in the panic of 1855 and loaded their household goods on a boat, went down the Ohio to the Mississippi and journeyed as far west as Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. There the family spent the winter and the father went to Kansas and found a location. He brought his family to Topeka in the winter of 1856-1857. They rented a little hotel and kept tavern, among others having for guests, Jim Lane and



THOMAS BENTON MURDOCK



A. D. Stevens, famous as a border fighter under Montgomery and afterwards killed at Harper's Ferry under old John Brown. Going and coming in the little Kansas town of the Virginia abolitionist were the men who made Kansas free and famous in the great conflict that began at Lawrence and ended at Appomattox.

In this atmosphere of strife and patriotism young Benton Murdock, a youth in his late teens, grew up. In 1860 the family homesteaded at Forest Hill, near Emporia, and the father and mother lived in Emporia the remainder of their lives; the father died in 1896 and the mother in 1887.

When the Civil war broke out Thomas Benton Murdock enlisted with his father and brother, Roland, in the Ninth Kansas Cavalry and served until the end of the war. He served in the Rocky Mountains in 1863 and there met J. H. Betts, now of El Dorado. When they met seven or eight years later in El Dorado John Betts kept eying Murdock and finally said: "Say, aren't you the chap that relieved me of that army overcoat out west?" Murdock's company was confiscating Government property wherever he found it. Murdock looked at Betts and replied: "Well I guess I am. But I'm here to start a newspaper. What's the chance?"

"Bully," returned Mr. Betts, willing to let bygones be bygones, and they remained friends for forty years.

Returning from the army where he had gone snow blind on the plains—a calamity that hung over him all his later days—young Murdock who had been a hod carrier and general workman as a youth around Topeka, learned the printing trade. He worked in the office of the Emporia "News," then owned by P. B. Plumb and Jacob Stotler who had married Leverah Murdock during the war. His brother Marshall who had worked at the printers trade during the war was running the Burlingame "Chronicle" at the end of the war. Young Benton went back to Ironton, Ohio, married the sweetheart of his boyhood, Frances Crawford, and came to El Dorado, March 4, 1870, and founded the Walnut Valley "Times" with J. S. Danford. His wife lived only a few years leaving at her death their daughter, Mary Alice, editor of the El Dorado "Republican."

From the first Mr. Murdock became a leader of politics in Kansas. He stood for the Walnut Valley and the Kingdom of Butler. In 1876 he was elected a member of the State senate. He served with such men as E. N. Morrill, Charles Robinson, J. M. Hadley, father of the former governor of Missouri; Benjamin F. Simpson, J. R. Hallowell, D. W. Finney, W. A. Johnston, chief justice of Kansas, all members of the senate, while in the house were Lyman U. Humphrey, John Gilmore, A. W. Smith, L. B. Kellogg, P. P. Elder. His political career was fostered and guided by Mrs. Antoinette Culbreth-Murdock who for a generation has been wife, friend, comrade, guide and inspiration, who bore him five children of whom Ellina Culbreth only now is living. Mrs.

Murdock survives him with his two children. In 1880 he ran for the senate again but was unfairly defeated he thought. He sold the "Times" and moved to Topeka and became connected with the Topeka Daily "Commonwealth," then controlled by the Baker family. But El Dorado held his heart and he returned in 1883 and founded the El Dorado weekly "Republican." The Daily followed the Weekly in 1884 and the paper at once took a prominent place in the affairs of Kansas.

Mr. Murdock was, during the late senator's life time, a friend and ally of P. B. Plumb. He and Plumb were young men together in Emporia, thought alike and had much in common in training and inspirations. And so after Plumb died the courage and independence and progressive Kansas spirit that made Plumb an insurgent who voted against the adoption of the McKinley bill, lived on in Kansas through Mr. Murdock. He was politically always with the scouts, with the pioneers, ever with the skirmish line. It was the spirit of 1860 in his soul, the rebellion of the ancestral Murdocks in his blood.

In 1888 he was again elected to the State senate. He served until 1892 and was on the committee that tried Theodosius Botkin and went over the old county seat troubles of western Kansas. He was defeated for reelection by the Populist wave, and until appointed fish and game warden by Governor Stubbs never held public office of any kind again.

But he was a public man all the time. His influence on the State has been more rather than less because of the fact that he was not in office. In every Republican State convention for forty years Mr. Murdock has been a power of the first class. Yet he sacrificed that power and worked for the primaries which put convention politicians out of power. He was never selfish, never little, never mean and so it happened that he was large enough to retain his influence in the State and multiply it through the primary. Gradually he has grown in strength with the people of Kansas, and since 1902—his last alignment with the old political machine—he has been easily the leader of the forward movement in Kansas Republicanism. Others have had the honor; but he has made them. He has expressed, as no other man has been able to express it, the sentiment of popular protest against the wrongs of government by ring rule. He has been the voice of the people—an indignant people clamoring for a larger part in their State government.

He fought with arms for freedom in his youth; he offered his body then; he gave his life to freedom in this latest struggle, and fought with his spirit—a brave, successful fight.

As an editor he was equipped as few men are equipped—with an individual style. He expressed something more than an idea. He reflected an ideal plus a strong, unique personality. He therefore in a way dramatized whatever he wrote—made it the spoken word of a combatant in the conflict, the defiance of a partisan in the contest. So thousands of people knew him as a voice, who did not know him as a man as we of his home town have known him for forty years.

Here was his real life, his real friends, his real success. For before he was a Kansan he was a Butler county man, an El Dorado man. He always stood by the home folks. Of course he took part in local matters, and having taken part had to take sides. He was never neutral in any important contest here at home. But he always fought in the open, and he always fought fair. He never abused a man. He attacked causes, movements, orders, administrations, organizations and principles of his opponents—but the personal character of the men he opposed—there was the limit. He never returned abuse for abuse. He had no newspaper fights. He never made his personal enemies objects for newspaper ridicule. He had no office black list. Every man or woman in Butler county received exactly the same treatment from the "Republican" under Mr. Murdock that every other man or woman received, no matter whether he or she was friend or enemy. He strove to be fair. Many is the politician in this county in the old days who has fought Mr. Murdock knowing he could always depend on Mr. Murdock to be fair, to keep to the issue, to be silent on old scores, to leave personal matters out of the question. Men have risen to power in this community opposing Mr. Murdock who have capitalized his innate decency, and have risen more by reason of his charity and humanity than by their own ability. He was a gentleman of the old school, was Thomas Benton Murdock, and that fact has given more power to those who opposed him often than their own worth should have given to them.

As his best qualities grew intenser, as people grew nearer to him, as they who knew him best here in his home community thought more of him than those who knew him in the State, so even better than they knew and loved him in the town, did they know and love him in his home. Mr. Murdock was a home man clear to the core. Some men are least known at home. He was best known there, and best beloved, for there he showed always his best side. He kept the finest part of his heart and mind and soul for those who met him in his home. There he was in his kindest, his gentlest, his most human aspect. Home was his heaven. There he brought all his joy. There he left the world behind. When blindness threatened him, as it did for a quarter of a century off and on, it was in his home that he found his only solace. When enemies pursued him, when cares overcame him, when troubles compassed him about, he turned always up the hill—always homeward. There he drank the elixir of life, and returned full armed, anew and strong to the contest.

When his soul went out into the Greater Soul that gave it, how lovingly he must have followed the last ride of his shattered clay tenement as it journeyed through the Kansas that he loved, down the West Branch into the Walnut valley that loved him, up the hill and through the gloaming into the home that was his first heaven. For it was a journey with a climax in love. And when those whom he knew best and loved

best gathered about his wasted body of death, his soul triumphant in the new life must have felt glowing even through the dark veil the warmth of an affection too deep for words and tears.

So his last wish was granted. And after "taps" had sounded we left all that was mortal, only a withered husk of the exalted and risen soul of Thomas Benton Murdock under the prairie grass out in the sunshine. Sunshine and prairie grass—and the end.

**Dr. George Warrender**, a prominent veterinary surgeon of Augusta, Kans. is a Butler county pioneer in his profession, and comes from a family of veterinary surgeons of three generations, his father and grandfather having been veterinary surgeons of prominence. Dr. Warrender was born at Garbetsville, N. Y., in 1851 and is a son of Dr. Robert and Anna (Pearson) Warrender, both natives of England.

Dr. Warrender, of this review, was born about three weeks after his parents came to America and is one of a family of four, as follows: Mary, married William Layman, now deceased; George, the subject of this sketch; Robert, lives at Douglass, Kans.; and Jane, married William Henry Thornley, and they live in Iowa. The Warrender family removed from New York to Illinois, settling in Cass county, when George was a child. Here he was reared on a farm, attended the public schools and later studied veterinary surgery. He practiced his profession in Illinois until 1885, when he came to Kansas, settling near Douglass, where he engaged in the practice of his profession, and at the same time was interested in farming, until 1904, when he located at Augusta, and has since devoted himself exclusively to the practice of his profession.

Dr. Warrender has been uniformly successful in his professional work and is recognized as the leading veterinary surgeon of Butler county. He is not only well known in Butler county, but has a State wide reputation among extensive stock men and his fellow practitioners.

Dr. George Warrender was united in marriage at Mason City, Ill. in 1870 to Miss Sarah A. McCluggage, and five children were born to this union, three of whom are living, as follows: James O., married Ella Boucher, and lives seven miles west of Augusta; Charles, married Myrtle Johnson and lives near Mulvane, Kans., and Leota, a successful Butler county teacher, resides with her parents.

**Gustavus F. Gallagher**, Augusta, Kans.—This Civil war veteran, and his pioneer wife, belong to that noble band of men and women whose courage and industry knew no limitations in the early days when they came West, and contributed their youth and energy to conquering the wilds of the plains. Gustavus F. Gallagher was born at Fremont, Ohio, or where Fremont is now located, in 1830, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Foose) Gallagher, the former a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Kentucky, who came to Ohio with her parents when she was four years old. Thomas and Elizabeth (Foose)



Gallagher were the parents of four children, as follows: William W., John D., Thomas M., and Gustavus F. Gustavus F. Gallagher bears the distinction of having been the first white child born in Fremont, Ohio, and he recalls with pride that Rutherford B. Hayes, who later became president of the United States, was one of his boyhood friends and playmates.

Mr. Gallagher was reared and educated in the State of Ohio, and in early life went to Illinois, and was about thirty-one years of age when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted at Danville, Ill., in Company D, Twenty-fifth regiment, Illinois infantry, and for three years and three months, fought beneath the stars and stripes in defense of the Union. He was mustered out of service and discharged at Springfield, Ill., and shortly afterwards settled in Indiana where he remained until 1881. He then came to Kansas, settling two miles north of Augusta, where he bought 200 acres of land, and six years later removed to Augusta and has since made his home there. Mr. Gallagher was married in Vermillion county, Indiana, January 1, 1856, to Anne Foose and to this union four children were born, as follows: Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Crane, Augusta; Gustavus, Jr., married, Cella Carpenter and lives in Oklahoma; Mrs. Jessie Wishard, lives at Alvin, Texas; and Clarence D., married Estella Markham, and lives at Johnson, Stanton county, Kans. The wife and mother of these children died December 13, 1890, and Mr. Gallagher married for his second wife Mrs. Charlotte Gardner, widow of John R. Gardner, of Augusta, who died August 5, 1887. Mr. Gardner was a soldier of the Civil war, and for ten months and twenty-seven days languished in the Confederate prison at Andersonville.

The present Mrs. Gallagher was a daughter of Elijah and Welthy (Lamb) Weston, the former a native of New York, and a cousin of Payson Walker who has walked himself to fame, and the latter a native of Connecticut and a member of the Lamb family of that State, noted for their wealth and commercial prestige in the early days. Mrs. Gallagher was born at Troy, Geauga county, Ohio, and was one of the following children, born to her parents: Charlotte, now Mrs. Gallagher, wife of the subject of this sketch; Barnabas, deceased; Thankful, deceased; John, deceased; Mrs. Mary Bower lives in Oregon; Mrs. Hannah Auxer lives in Ohio, and Mrs. Elzora Scott also lives in Ohio. Mrs. Gallagher was educated in the public schools of Ohio, including one term at Able's High School, Troy, Ohio, and at the age of seventeen married John R. Gardner at Bundysburg. They were the parents of two children: Elijah H., who died in 1890 at Augusta, Kans., leaving one son, Lile F. Gardner; Mrs. Effie Brewer, of San Luis Obispo, Cal. She has one son, Frank R. Powell, by a former marriage.

In 1851 they removed to Noble county, Indiana, settling in the wilderness of that section where they remained until 1860 when they went west again, this time settling in Logan county, Illinois. In 1868 they came to Kansas, settling in Crawford county, on what was known as the neutral lands. After some difficulty they secured a clear title to their

land, and in 1871 removed to Butler county, and took a claim in Douglass township, or that part of it which is now Richland township. After residing on their claim about two and one-half years, they moved to the town of Douglass, in order that they might have better educational advantages for their children.

Mrs. Gallagher relates many interesting incidents of pioneer life in Butler county. She remembers distinctly when the grasshoppers came, destroying everything in their wake in 1874, and she tells how she saved her small fruit trees from destruction by the pests by tying sheets over the trees. They escaped the destruction of the hoppers much better than did many of their neighbors, who were left absolutely destitute. They had twenty-five acres of corn which happened to be ripe—too ripe to be palatable for the grasshoppers, which as a rule are not particular, and the following winter found ready market for all the corn they had to spare at \$1.00 a bushel. They also had a good crop of wheat that year and taking everything into consideration, they were about as prosperous grasshopper year as it any other time. In 1876 the Gardners removed to Augusta and bought the National Hotel, which they conducted for a number of years.

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher went to Stanton county, Kansas, and filed on a claim, five miles south of Johnson and lived there for two and one-half years when they returned to Augusta, where they are now spending their declining years in ease and comfort in their cozy home on Main street. Mrs. Gallagher takes an active part in local historical work, and is keenly interested in the preservation of the early history of Butler county. Mr. Gallagher has been a Republican since the candidacy of John C. Fremont and is a staunch supporter of the policies and principles of the Republican party.

**Henry Moyle.**—The ranks of the vanguard that led the way to the opening and settlement of Butler county are rapidly thinning, and Henry Moyle, of Augusta, stands out conspicuously as a Butler county pioneer, who did his part in the sixties and seventies in laying the foundation of this empire, of itself, which now ranks as one of the foremost political subdivisions of the great State of Kansas. Henry Moyle was born in Cornwall, England, in 1846, and is a son of Matthew C. and Elizabeth (Treloar) Moyle, both natives of the mother country. They were the parents of the following children: Eliza Ann, deceased; John, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Julia, deceased; Mary, married Alexander Petrie, and they reside in Pasadena, Cal.

Henry Moyle emigrated to America with his parents in 1848, and they located at Gold Hill, N. C., where the boy was reared and received a fair education. He lived the peaceful life of the average boy until the great Civil war broke out, and naturally when the great struggle came on, his sympathies were with his own State, and he enlisted in the First North Carolina infantry, and fought beneath the stars and bars, following the vicissitudes of war for four years and ten days, or until the

hope of the Confederacy was placed in the catalogue of the world's lost causes. While in the line of duty Mr. Moyle participated in many of the important and hard fought battles of that great struggle. At the battle of Big Bethel Church, Va., he was seriously wounded below the right knee by a musket ball.

After the clouds of war had passed away he returned to his home where he remained until 1867, and on May 20, 1866, he came to Butler county, Kansas, locating on a claim near White Station on the Walnut river. This was long before the railroad was built. He erected a primitive log cabin on his claim and proceeded to break prairie for himself and his neighbors with ox teams, for which he received five dollars per acre while breaking for others. This proved to be a fairly remunerative vocation, but was a little over exercise if anything, both for the man and oxen. He remained on his claim until 1875 when he sold it and engaged in the hardware business at Augusta, a place which had assumed quite pretentious proportions by this time. However, when Mr. Moyle located in Augusta township in 1869, Augusta was not the hustling oil town that it is today. The entire residence and business district at that time consisted of one log house and C. N. James and Shamlever conducted a store in that building, which, by the way, is still standing but has been sheeted with boards so that it presents the appearance of a frame building, with the exception of its unusually thick wall, and it is now used as a residence. Mr. Moyle was one of the first hardware men to locate in Augusta, and later engaged in the grocery business which he conducted for thirty-four years. However, he has not confined himself entirely to a mercantile life, but about 1895 he began investing in farm lands extensively, which has proven to be a successful financial move. He and his sons now own 720 acres of valuable farm land which is located in the heart of the rich gas and oil belt of Butler county, the future possibilities of which can not be estimated at this time.

Mr. Moyle was united in marriage in 1870 with Miss Josephine Sanders at Augusta, Kans., and six children have been born to this union, as follows: Grace, married Arthur Skaer, Augusta, Kans.; John, Augusta; Matthew, married Pearl Purcell, and resides in Walnut township; Beulah, married R. Y. Alexander, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Harry and Anna, residing at home. Mrs. Moyle belongs to a pioneer Butler county family who came from Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1869.

During Mr. Moyle's business career he has found time occasionally to devote himself unselfishly to the cause of public affairs. In 1885 he was elected mayor of Augusta, an office which he filled with credit to himself and entire satisfaction to the electors of the city. Mr. Moyle has seen great changes in the life of Butler county since coming here, and perhaps has as rich a fund of early day reminiscences as any pioneer of the county, and he possesses the faculty of relating the stories of pioneer days in an entertaining way. When he came here there

was plenty of game such as deer, antelope and wild turkeys, and prairie chickens by the thousands. The great herds of buffalo, however, had drifted a little farther west and were in abundance not far from where Wichita is now located. He remembers, though, of one buffalo being killed in this county on Turkey creek, after he came here. He thinks, though, that that buffalo was just a little unfortunate and failed to heed Horace Greeley's warning to go west and escape the fate that overtook him. Henry Moyle will be long remembered as one of the grand old men of Butler county to whom future generations will ever owe a debt of gratitude for the part that he has played in laying the foundation for the enjoyment of the great institutions of today.

**M. A. Palmer**, Civil war veteran and one of the earliest settlers in Butler county, bears the distinction of having been one of the founders of the town of Leon. Mr. Palmer was born in Washington county, Ohio, July 8, 1837, and is the only living child of a family of five. He was educated in the public schools of his native State, and when the Civil war broke out he was in Kansas, where he enlisted in the Fifth Kansas regiment at Topeka, and participated in many important battles and skirmishes throughout Missouri and Arkansas. He was at the battle of Morrystown where the colonel of his regiment, Hampton P. Johnson, was killed. He was also in the engagement at Helena, Little Rock and Pine Bluff, and altogether was under fire seventeen times.

In 1867, Mr. Palmer came to Butler county, and preempted a claim in Little Walnut township, where he was engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1884, meeting with uniform success in his undertaking. He then removed to Leon, and has lived there practically all of the time since. He assisted in laying out the town of Leon, and opened the first drug store there which he conducted for a number of years. He and two other men organized the Leon Bank and he became the first cashier of that institution and later sold his interest in the bank to J. Benninghof. For eighteen months, he was superintendent of the Leon Creamery, and has been active in the commercial life of the town since it was founded.

Mr. Palmer has always taken a prominent part in local politics and has been an active and influential factor in Butler county, in a political way. He served one term as county commissioner of Butler county by appointment, and was elected to two other terms, and has held various township offices of trust and responsibility. In 1876, he was elected a member of the State legislature, and served in that session with satisfaction to his constituents and credit to himself. In 1892, he was elected register of deeds of Butler county, serving one term. Since boyhood, he has been a Republican and has been a close adherent to the policies and principles of that party, and is not inclined to be led along political byways by false prophets.

Mr. Palmer was united in marriage January 22, 1865, with Miss Susan C. Berry, of Topeka, Kans., a daughter of G. W. and Nancy (Ste-



M. A. PALMER AND WIFE



wart) Berry. The Berry family came to Kansas from Missouri in 1854, during the territorial days, and settled at Topeka, which was then a small hamlet on the frontier. Mrs. Palmer has two brothers and one sister living, as follows: James Berry, Burlingame, Kans.; G. W. Berry, Topeka; and Mrs. M. A. Fleak, Atchison, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have been born the following children: Mrs. Mary F. Hogue, resides on the old homestead; Mrs. Susan May Sandford, Rock, Kans.; Charles F., Leon; Mrs. Abigail Carroll, El Dorado, Kans; Mrs. Leola Pearl Rigg, Leon, Kans.

Many changes have taken place since Mr. Palmer first came to Butler county. In the early days, his nearest trading points were Emporia and Topeka, and the nearest grist mill was at Cottonwood Falls. He was one of the few early settlers who out-generated the grass-hoppers when they marched across Kansas in 1874. He was at Leon at the time, and hurrying home, cut and shocked his corn and thus saved it from the devastation of the greedy hoppers.

Mr. Palmer is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Grand Army of the Republic and the Christian church.

**J. W. Riffe**, a Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer, who has been a factor in the affairs of this section of Kansas for nearly half a century, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in 1844, and is a son of P. B. and Julian (Wadkins) Riffe, also natives of Kentucky. They were the parents of ten children, only two of whom are now living; Mrs. Rowena Tucker of Springfield, Mo., and J. W., the subject of this sketch.

J. W. Riffe was educated in the public schools of Kentucky and St. Mary's College near Lebanon, Ky. When the Civil war broke out, J. W. Riffe, then a boy of only sixteen years, enlisted in the Union army at Lebanon, Ky., and became a member of Company D, First regiment, Kentucky cavalry, serving three years and four months, and was mustered out and discharged at Camp Nelson, Ky., December 24, 1864. He took part in a great many battles and important campaigns, among which were the engagements at Camp Wildcat, Ky.; Mill Springs, Ky.; Kenesaw Mountain; Resaca, Ga.; Cass Station, Ga.; Rocky Ford, Tenn.; siege of Knoxville, Tenn.; Bean Station, Tenn.; Strawberry Plains, Tenn.; General Stoneman's raid, Macon, Ga. An unusual thing concerning the engagement at Macon is that General Stoneman surrendered, but it seems that the First and Eleventh regiments, Kentucky cavalry, under the command of Colonel Adams, regardless of the commanding general's surrender, cut their way through the rebel lines and succeeded in getting to Marietta, Ga.

After Mr. Riffe was discharged from the service, he settled at Lebanon, Ky., where he followed farming until 1870, when he came to Butler county, Kansas, locating in Bloomington township. He first located a claim which he lost through the artifice of a "claim jumper," which was a common occurrence in those days. In 1872 he bought a

farm on Hickory creek, eleven miles southeast of Augusta. He was successfully engaged in farming there until 1883, when he removed to Augusta and engaged in buying and shipping live stock, principally to the St. Louis markets. In 1900 he engaged in the real estate business at Augusta and has successfully conducted that business to the present time. During the past sixteen years Mr. Riffe has handled a great deal of property, and is one of Butler county's extensive real estate dealers.

In 1868 Mr. Riffe was united in marriage at Jeffersonville, Ind., with Miss Sarah (Texas) Withrow, a native of Marion county, and of Kentucky parentage. To Mr. and Mrs. Riffe was born one child, Norma, who died at the age of twenty, and Mrs. Riffe died in 1891. She was a high type of Christian woman and she and her husband were very much devoted to each other. Mr. Riffe married Mrs. Mattie McRoberts, of Liberty, Ky., in 1904, while at the world's fair at St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Riffe is a Democrat, and since coming to Butler county has been an active factor in the fight for Democracy in nearly every political campaign. He is not what might be termed a fair weather Democrat, but has stayed with his party in defeat as well as in victory. He bears the distinction of having been chairman of the first Democratic convention ever held in Butler county, which was held at El Dorado in 1872. At that time the numerical strength of the Democratic party in Butler county was only four or five hundred voters, while the Republicans numbered fully three times that many. In 1876, Mr. Riffe was his party's candidate for the legislature against L. C. Palmer, Republican, and was defeated by only eighty votes. In 1889 he was elected trustee of Augusta township over John Middleton, Republican, and re-elected to that office, defeating Charles Hawes. Mr. Riffe relates many interesting and amusing incidents concerning the history of early Butler county politics at a time when political feeling was bitter. He still takes an active part in politics and is one of the influential men of Butler county.

**J. C. Walker**, a Kansas pioneer, who was one of that great army of patriots who defended the Union in the early sixties, and whose ranks are now rapidly thinning, is living retired at his comfortable home at Augusta. J. C. Walker was born at Nelson, Shelby county, Illinois, in April, 1844, and is a son of Isaac and Mary (Elder) Walker, natives of North Carolina and Tennessee, respectively. J. C. Walker was one of a family of three children, and is the only one known to be living now. He received his education in the common schools of Shelby county, Illinois, and when seventeen years of age enlisted in Company B, Forty-first regiment Illinois infantry, and served until after the close of the war. He was discharged at Louisville, Ky., in July, 1865. During his term of service he participated in many hard fought battles and skirmishes. He was at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth and was at the siege of Vicksburg, being present when the city was surrendered. He was with Sherman on his memorable march to the sea and after the surrender



of Lee marched to Washington and was later mustered out of the service and discharged as above stated.

At the close of the war he located in Moultrie county, Illinois, remaining there until the fall of 1872, when he came to Butler county, Kansas, and after spending about two years at El Dorado, he returned to Illinois. After remaining in that State until 1882, he came to Butler county again, this time locating at Leon, where he lived three years on a farm. He then went to St. Joseph, Mo., and shortly afterwards came to Augusta, where he engaged in farming. When he first came to Butler county, the country was one broad, unfenced range that stretched in every direction as far as the eye could see, without an object in view but plain prairie everywhere. The roads, or trails as they were then called, were laid out on the principle that "a nearly straight line is about the shortest distance between two points." Mr. Walker has been thrice married, his first wife being Sarah Cornwell, of Sullivan, Ill., and to this union four children were born, three of whom are living: W. S., Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Zoda Suits, Augusta, and C. A., a grocer at Wichita, Kan. The wife, and mother of these children, died in March, 1884. He was married a second time to Mrs. Margaret Reeder, October 8, 1891. She died in March, 1901. In 1903 Mr. Walker married Mrs. Louisa Payton, widow of Thomas Payton. She bore the maiden name of Louisa Oldberry and was a daughter of George and Matilda (Venard) Oldberry, the former a native of England, and the latter of Indiana. The Oldberry family were very early settlers in Kansas, locating in Chase county about a mile east of Cottonwood Falls, in the fall of 1858. Prior to coming to Kansas they had lived in Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri, and when they came to Chase county they drove through from Missouri with ox teams. Mrs. Walker was a real pioneer girl of the plains, and says when her people located in Chase county that there were only five girls in the county, and she relates, with much amusement, many of the early day social events. She says it was not an uncommon occurrence to drive ten miles to a dance with ox teams, and that they often had to start in the middle of the day to get there on time, and then, after dancing until about midnight, that they usually reached home after daylight the next morning. When her people came to Kansas, they wanted to stop at Emporia for some purpose or other, and as they were driving along the trail, they were on the lookout for the town. After driving by a house that stood by the wayside, they inquired of someone, whom they met, where Emporia was, and he told them that the house that they had just passed was "it," that being the postoffice and only house in town.

Mrs. Walker was first married September 21, 1862, to Thomas Payton at Cottonwood Falls, the marriage ceremony taking place in a primitive cabin, with a dirt floor, that her father had built in 1859. To this union were born ten children, five of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Lucy Pennybaker, Strawn, Kan.; Mrs. Mary Lowe, Seton, Col.; Mrs.

Jennie Cochran, Hartford, Kan.; Edward Payton, Augusta, Kan., and Weaver Payton, near Augusta. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are among the honored pioneers of Butler county, and are highly respected by their friends and acquaintances.

**T. J. Fell**, a Butler county pioneer, residing at Augusta, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Trumbull county in 1843, and is a son of John R. and Sarah (Rathburn) Fell, the former of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Winnie Howe lives in Alabama; Jasper, a merchant, at Linneus, Mo.; Allen, a farmer in Livingston county, Missouri, and T. J., the subject of this sketch.

T. J. Fell received a common school education in the State of Ohio and in 1864 removed to Missouri with his parents and the family settled in Livingston county. While there Mr. Fell served in the Forty-third regiment, Missouri State militia, from October, 1864, until the close of the war, in April, 1865. After the war he followed farming in Livingston county until 1870, when he came to Kansas and settled near Osage Mission, Neosho county. After remaining there about two years, he returned to Missouri. In 1874, he went to Harvey county, Kansas, and from there he came to Butler county and took a claim six miles southeast of Augusta, near Pine Grove postoffice, and also rented a farm in that vicinity. When he first visited Augusta it was a very small settlement, there being but two stores there. In 1885, he sold his Butler county claim and went to western Kansas, where he bought a half section of land, but the bottom soon fell out of the boom and he lost his investment. He then came back to Butler county, and after renting land a few years, bought 160 acres, seven miles east of Douglass, where he lived for seventeen years, and in 1912 removed to Augusta, where he has since lived practically in retirement.

Mr. Fell has been twice married. In 1867 he was united in marriage in Lynn county, Missouri, to Miss Sarah Shifflet. Mrs. Fell died at Linneus, Mo., in 1872, leaving three children, as follows: Mrs. Ida Smith, of Montgomery county, Kansas; Walter, a ranchman near Beaumont, Kans., and Mrs. Katy Leavis, Seattle, Wash. In 1876 Mr. Fell married Miss Mary Primm, of Bradford Mills, Butler county, and to this union have been born four children: Cora, Rose, Mabel and Leah, all living at home except Mabel, who is now Mrs. Powell, and resides at Enid, Okla.

Mr. Fell is one of the Kansas pioneers who has experienced many incidents in the early day life of this State. He vividly recalls the year of the great grasshopper plague, when many of the early settlers left their claims, and returned to their former homes in the east and elsewhere. He says that in 1876, Butler county had a frog year, that deserves honorable mention in connection with the grasshopper carnival which preceded it by two years. When he speaks of the epidemic of frogs, he doesn't mean, just a few, or any ordinary aggregation of

frogs, but says that they were here by the millions, and that on one occasion, he drove for a distance of twenty-five miles through a veritable sea of hopping frogs.

**W. W. Chisman**, of Augusta, Kans., is a Civil war veteran and an early pioneer of Butler county. Mr. Chisman was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, a son of W. P. and Ann (Williams) Chisman, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of England. The Chisman family consisted of eight children, five of whom are living, as follows: W. W., whose name introduces this review; Mrs. Elmira Brewington, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Scott, resides in Dearborn county, Indiana; Mrs. Elda Ross, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and James N., Indianapolis, Ind.

When the Civil war broke out W. W. Chisman was still a mere boy of eighteen. Notwithstanding his youth, he enlisted at Lawrenceburg, Ind., in Company I, Eighty-third regiment, Indiana infantry, and served until the close of the war, being mustered out of service and discharged at Washington, D. C. in June, 1865. He saw much hard service and participated in many battles and skirmishes. He was at the siege of Vicksburg under Grant, the battle of Arkansas Post, Jackson, Miss.; Champion Hills. After the siege of Vicksburg his command marched to Memphis, Tenn. and from there to Chattanooga and was at the battle of Missionary Ridge. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea and participated in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Ezra Church, Jonesboro, Atlanta and the storming of Fort McAllister. From Savannah, he went to South Carolina, participating in the battle of North Edisto river. Here the Union troops waded the river, running with ice, and marched through the swamps for days. Mr. Chisman says that when the soldiers wanted drinking water, they would brush the scum aside and fill their canteens, and in drinking the water nothing smaller than a lizard was considered unpalatable. From the swamps of Georgia they marched through to Columbia, S. C., and from there to Bentonville, N. C., thence to Raleigh, N. C., Petersburg, Va., Richmond, Va., and finally to Washington, D. C. where he was mustered out of service June 12, 1865.

At the close of the war Mr. Chisman returned to Indiana and engaged in farming, near Aurora, where he remained until 1872, when he came to Butler county, Kansas, and settled on a claim, three and one-half miles south of Augusta. Later he added eighty acres to his original 160, and still owns the place. This is one of the best farms in Butler county, and in addition to its normal value as farm property it is considered valuable oil and gas land, in view of the recent developments of the Augusta field, and Mr. Chisman has leased his farm for development.

Mr. Chisman was united in marriage in 1884, to Miss Mary Clouse, of Augusta, and three children have been born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Lottie Bruce, Dearborn county, Indiana; Roy and Myra, both of whom live at home. By a former marriage to Louisa Bruce at Aurora,

Indiana, May, 1867, the following children were born: Alla Miller, now of Oklahoma City; Sherman, Feslton, Okla.; Sumner, Hanover, Colo.; Seymour, who was killed in April, 1892, by the horse he was riding falling on him.

Mr. Chisman is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Augusta Post, No. 105, and is post commander. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been identified with that lodge for twenty-five years. Mr. Chisman is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county, and has ever been ready to do his part in furthering any cause for the betterment of his county or State.

**Prof. C. W. Thomas**, principal of the Augusta city schools, ranks as one of the foremost educators, not only of Butler county, but of Kansas. Mr. Thomas is a native of New York, born in Wayne county, his parents being Warren and Mary E. (Bullock) Thomas, both natives of New York. Prof. Thomas was reared in his native State, receiving his early education in the public schools and at Williamson Union School. Later he took additional work in various educational institutions and, in fact, has been a hard student all his life. At the age of eighteen, he began his career as a teacher at Williamson, N. Y., and in 1883 came to Kansas, locating at Douglass, Butler county. He taught school in that vicinity for three years, and for seven years was a teacher in the grammar school at Douglass, and for three years following, he was principal of the Douglass schools. He was then forced to give up teaching on account of his health and after a vacation of three years, he accepted the assistant principalship of the Douglass schools, and for eighteen years he was connected with the Douglass schools in one capacity or another.

In 1903 Prof. Thomas was elected superintendent of public instruction of Butler county, and in 1905 re-elected to that office, serving four years in all. During his administration, the public schools of Butler county were efficiently conducted and very satisfactory results obtained, and Prof. Thomas won the reputation of being a very capable administrative school officer. He brought the school system up to a high state of efficiency and kept them fully up to the standard of modern day educational methods. At the close of his term of office he engaged in the mercantile business at Douglass which he conducted for three years when he traded his business for a farm, and came to Augusta to complete an unexpired term of school. In 1911 he was elected principal of the Augusta city schools, and since that time has conducted the schools of that city in a way that has reflected great credit on him as an educator. Prof. Thomas has been active in institute work, and for ten years has been an instructor in that department of educational work. He has assisted at institutes in Arkansas City, Ashland and El Dorado. He is president of the Butler County Teachers' Association, a position which he has held for three years. He has taken an active part in all matters tending to the advancement of education, and helped establish

the first consolidated high school in Butler county. He is a persistent worker, and is not an advocate of any "royal road to learning." In whatever capacity he has served in the great field of education, he has done his part conscientiously and well.

**T. A. Fenton**, a Butler county pioneer stockman and dairy farmer, now living retired at Augusta, is a native of New York. He was born at Hamburg, N. Y., in 1848, and is a son of Cephas and Juliet (Austin) Fenton, natives of New York. They were the parents of three children, of whom T. A. Fenton, the subject of this sketch, is the only one living. Mr. Fenton received his education in the public schools of Buffalo, N. Y., and Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1873 came to Kansas, locating in Bruno township, Butler county. When he settled there, that part of the country was all open range, and unbroken prairie, but within a few years afterwards settlers came in rapidly and section lines were soon established and regular highways laid out.

Mr. Fenton first bought 205 acres in 1873, and has added to his original holdings, and now owns 1100 acres of good fertile land in one body, located on Dry creek. Soon after locating in Butler county, Mr. Fenton engaged in the stock and dairy business, which he conducted for thirty-four years, and in 1907 removed to Augusta where he has since made his home. He is now taking life easy and says that he does not want to make any more money, and in fact he really does not need any more, and is one of the few men who in the wild scramble of modern day money-madness, knows when he has enough.

Mr. Fenton was one of the pioneer scientific dairy men of Butler county. He brought the first cream separator into southwestern Kansas. It was a DeLavel and came from Stockholm, Sweden. He made butter, which he delivered once a week, to special customers in Wichita. He ran his dairy in connection with the general stock business, and is a strong advocate of combining the dairy and stock business, and his successful experience in the practical application of that theory bears out his position.

On December 26, 1872 Mr. Fenton was united in marriage at Cincinnati, Ohio, with Miss Alice M. Hall, a native of Hamilton county, Ohio, and of English parentage. Five children have been born to this union, one of whom is now living, Mrs. Nellie E. Smith, who resides with her parents at Augusta. One son, Allen S., died from the result of an operation for appendicitis in 1910 and his widow, Mrs. Daisy Dwight Fenton, now lives in Augusta.

Mr. Fenton is one of the pioneers of Butler county, who came at a time when he had an opportunity to experience all the vicissitudes of the early settlers on the plains. He grew up with Butler county, so to speak. Just as he was endeavoring to get a start in life, and trying to dodge dry seasons and tide over crop failures, the grasshoppers swept down upon him in 1874, and he suffered the common lot of his neighbors, and almost everything that he had in the way of growing crops was

destroyed. He relates an incident of a prairie fire in 1872 which started in the vicinity of Newton, and swept everything before it for miles and miles, and he says, that for days after the fire had passed over, the air was filled with ashes and soot, wafted about by the gentle Kansas breezes made life almost as unendurable as the fire itself. But withall, and notwithstanding grasshoppers, prairie fires, hot winds, dry seasons and wet seasons, Kansas has been good to him, and like many others, he is in a comfortable financial condition, and able to spend the remainder of his days in retirement, and is one of Butler county's honored citizens.

On the seventeenth day of April, 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Fenton started East to visit old friends. After stopping at Memphis, Tenn., Louisville, Ky., Cincinnati, Ohio, Hamilton, Ohio, and Richmond, Ohio, where Mrs. Fenton had a stroke of paralysis which proved fatal. She died there May, 19, 1916, at the residence of her niece. Her body was brought to Augusta and buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Monday, May 22, 1916.

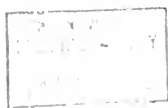
**George Fairbank Fullinwider**, was born in Mechanicsburg, Sangamon county, Illinois, October 19, 1854. He is the eldest son of Marcus Lindsay Fullinwider and Sarah Calista Fairbank. His father was a native of Shelbyville, Ky., of German descent, and one of the pioneers of Sangamon county, Illinois. His mother was a native of New Hampshire of Scotch ancestry. His grandfather, Rev. George Fairbank, and whose name he bears, was one of the pioneers of Methodism in Illinois, a co-worker with Peter Cartwright, J. L. Crane, Hiram Buck and others of blessed memory. When George Fullinwider was three years old his mother died, and, with his infant brother, he was taken to the home of his grandparents, then at Georgetown, Ill., where he remained until August, 1863, when his father having married again, George went home with him to Champaign, Ill. In March, 1867, his father removed to Vermillion county, near Fairmount, where he had landed interests and where George remained until he came to Kansas in January, 1883. In 1871 his stepmother died, and the family was badly broken. His father remained on the farm, however, and George remained a part of the time in that vicinity and a part was spent near the old home in Sangamon county.

December 7, 1876, Mr. Fullinwider married Miss Priscilla Jester, the eldest daughter of a prominent farmer in the community. With no children of their own, they adopted a motherless baby girl in 1884, and she was the light of their home until her marriage to William J. Thompson, a prominent young farmer near El Dorado. The past ten years, two motherless babes, a little niece and nephew, have shared their home and love.

In August 1882 Mr. Fullinwider purchased a farm in Rosalia township, the southwest quarter of section 3-26-7. At that time the Santa Fe branch from Florence, which extended to Douglass was the only railroad in the county. Surveys for the Missouri Pacific had been made and the stakes stood in the prairie grass, but the road had not been



GEORGE F. FULLINWIDER





built west of Eureka. Track was laid to El Dorado in January, 1883. Rosalia township was but thinly settled, and much of pioneer days remained. In October, 1885, he removed to the farm on which the town of Pontiac is located and remained there until the fall of 1886, when he again moved to a bottom farm on the Walnut, three miles northeast of El Dorado. He remained there until March, 1887, when he moved to El Dorado and engaged in the marble business. In March, 1890, he accepted a position on the reportorial staff of the Daily Walnut Valley "Times." He continued in this position until April 1, 1897, when he purchased a one-half interest in "The Advocate," and later became sole proprietor. He conducted the paper for sixteen years, or until September, 1913, when he sold it. He then returned to a position on The Walnut Valley "Times," which position he holds at present. He has the distinction of ranking as the second oldest newspaper man in Butler, having completed twenty-six years of active work. J. M. Satterthwaite, of The Douglass "Tribune," is the oldest, in point of service.

Mr. Fullinwider, like his ancestors, is a Methodist, and for the past thirty years has been a licensed exhorter in the church. At one time he had charge of the Chelsea circuit, which then comprised Chelsea, Satchell Creek, Cole Creek, Durachen, Pontiac and Rosalia. He served these points ably and satisfactorily, doing most of his studying between the plow handles while caring for his farm. He did this extra work, that the regular pastor might be enabled to go and file on a claim in western Kansas. He has served with distinction as Sunday school superintendent, and was for several years president of the Butler County Sunday School Association. He has conducted many funerals in these years and has always been ready to go where he was needed at any time. He has always been interested in the church and Sunday school work, has been a strong advocate of temperance and a firm adherent of righteousness in all things.

In 1871 he joined the Independent Order of Good Templars, and has since remained a member of that worldwide organization. At the Topeka session of the Grand Lodge in 1893, he was elected to the office of Grand Secretary of Kansas and held that position for fifteen years. During this time he spent not only his time but his money in the promotion of the cause of Good Templary, represented Kansas in the International Supreme Lodge at Boston in 1895, and in Toronto, Canada, in 1897. In 1902, he was again elected to represent Kansas in the session held in Stockholm, Sweden, and was the only Kansan on the floor of that august assembly. On this trip he made a tour of the continent and visited Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Holland and England. He learned much of the Old World and its people. In the line of duty, in connection with the temperance work, he has lectured many times, has traveled in thirty-six States and territories and the Dominion of Canada, has crossed the Atlantic twice, the North Sea twice, sailed hundreds of miles in the Baltic and its tributaries, has seen the Hebrides.

Islands, the coast of Scotland, the Shetland Islands, the coast of Ireland and the coast of Newfoundland. To him this experience has been one of the most interesting and educational of his life.

Politically Mr. Fullinwider is a democrat, and his entire sympathies and interest lie in the direction and along the line of the interests of the common people, and especially of the laboring classes. He has been honored on several occasions by election as delegate to State conventions. Especially was this true during the Populist regime. He was very active at that time and during those years. He was a delegate to the last National convention of the Populist party, held at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and was closely associated with men of National as well as State reputation.

**J. W. Jennings**, a well known contractor and builder of Augusta, is a Butler county pioneer, and has spent forty-five years of his life in this section of Kansas. Mr. Jennings was born in Adams county, Ohio, February 10, 1853, and is a son of W. E., and Sarah J. (Collings) Jennings, both natives of Ohio. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom are living: E. W., Augusta, Kans.; G. O., Golden, Colo.; Mrs. D. U. Rowland, Augusta, Kans.; and J. W., the subject of this sketch. The Jennings family came to Kansas in 1871 and located in Clifford township.

J. W. attended the public schools in Ohio, and after coming to Kansas, attended school in a log school house in Clifford township, and he and his father built the first school house in that district, known as the Wilcox school house. He remained at home until 1878, when he went to Peabody and worked at the carpenter trade, and afterward returned to Butler county and followed farming in connection with his trade. In 1885, he built the Central Hotel and the Potwin Hall at Potwin, Kans., and later conducted that hotel for two years. He then returned to Peabody, working at his trade, until 1889 when he returned to the old homestead in Clifford township. In 1891 he went to Oklahoma where he followed farming until 1904, when he came to Augusta and since that time has devoted himself exclusively to contracting and building. During these years he has erected a great many business buildings and residences in Augusta. He built the Leonard block, the Warren Brown residence, the Peckham building, the McCool building, the Bausinger & Fuller building, and did the finishing work on the George W. Brown State Bank. He has built altogether over fifty residences in Augusta, and at this writing, has seven in the course of construction.

Mr. Jennings was united in marriage, April 22, 1880, to Miss Anna L. Deweese of Marion county, Kansas, and they have one child, Mrs. Alice Rosecrans, who resides at Augusta. She has one child, Audene.

Mr. Jennings is a member of the Masonic lodge and is a Royal Arch Mason. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is an expert mechanic and has worked at the carpenter trade most of the time for over fifty years, and he says that he can do as much work as any man on the job today, but that he won't.

**William Hitchcock**, proprietor of the Hitchcock Dry Good Company of Augusta, is one of Butler county's most progressive merchants. He is a native of Kansas, born at Circleville, and is a son of William and Mary (Hart) Hitchcock, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Charles, farmer, Belle Plaine, Kans.; Holton, merchant at El Dorado; Mrs. Fannie Swallow, Wichita, Kans., and William, the subject of this sketch.

William Hitchcock received his education in the public schools, and has been brought up in the mercantile business. When a boy he began clerking in a general store at Belle Plaine, Kans., and soon afterwards embarked in business with his father and brother at Syracuse, Kans., conducting a store there from 1886 until 1890. He then came to El Dorado, Kans., and in partnership with his father and brother, Holton, opened a general store. They were unusually successful in this venture, and it developed into the leading department store of the county. In 1910, William disposed of his interest to his brother, and engaged in the dry goods business at Hutchinson. In 1912 he sold his Hutchinson business, and came to Augusta, engaging in the dry goods business under the firm name of the Hitchcock Dry Goods Company, which is one of the enterprising mercantile institutions of that progressive city. Mr. Hitchcock carries a complete line of dry goods and ladies furnishings, and since coming to Augusta has built up a large business and earned a reputation for square dealing and honest goods. His stock is of a high class assortment, and he carries many of the best known makes of high class goods, and his store is a model of up-to-date merchandising. Mr. Hitchcock's force of clerks is an efficient organization and the many customers of this store are always assured of good value, good service and courteous treatment.

Mr. Hitchcock was united in marriage at El Dorado, Kans. in 1896, to Miss Bertha Bourne of that city. Four children have been born to this union, as follows: Frances, graduate of the Augusta High School, class of 1914, and now a student in Kansas University, Lawrence, Kans.; William, a student of the Augusta High School, and a member of the class of 1917; Everett, also a student in the Augusta High School and a member of the freshman class, and Constance, who resides at home. Mr. Hitchcock is one of the progressive business men of Augusta, and takes a keen interest in the development and welfare of his adopted city.

**J. R. Switzer.**—While the building of cities and towns, and the erection of magnificent buildings is, in a general way, brought about by the concerted action of communities, it requires a certain individual genius to carry out the plans and erect, in material and finished form and develop the ideals of others. J. R. Switzer, whose name introduces this review, is one of the few whose mastery of the art of building has played no small part in the construction of some of the most important buildings of Butler county, as well as elsewhere. Mr. Switzer is a native

of Perrysville, Ind., and a son of W. P. and Ella (Rabb) Switzer, natives of Indiana, who were the parents of three children, as follows: Lou, Augusta; Alfred, Spring Ranch, Iowa, and J. R.

J. R. Switzer received his education in the public schools of Indiana and La Cygne, Kans., graduating from the high school of the latter place when nineteen years of age. He then learned the mason's trade. He then followed superintendent of construction work for a time in the southern States, and in 1889 came to Augusta, Kans., and since that time has been active in construction work as a contractor and superintendent. He built the Peckham building, postoffice building, telephone building and the High School Building at Augusta and superintended the construction of the Butler County Court House at El Dorado and the Carnegie Library at Newton, Kans. He also superintended the erection of the court house and jail at Pratt, Kans., as well as a number of other minor buildings. He was appointed city engineer of Augusta in 1908 and has held that position to the present time and in that capacity drew the plans and specifications for the Augusta waterworks dam across the Walnut river and constructed the electric light plant of Augusta.

Mr. Switzer was married in 1891, to Miss Nettie Reed, of Augusta, her parents being pioneers of Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Switzer has been born one child, Fred, who is proprietor of the City Bakery and Cafe of Augusta. Mr. Switzer is one of the progressive and public spirited citizens of Augusta whose enterprise has made possible greater Augusta. J. R. Switzer has always affiliated with the Democratic party, taking an active part. For sixteen years he was local committeeman. He served four years as secretary and treasurer and was chairman of the county committee for four years. He was a member of the Congressional Committee for twelve years and a member of the State Committee for eight years, a position which he still holds.

W. P. Switzer, the father, was born in Indiana in 1838, a son of Joseph and Eliza (Anderson) Switzer, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are living, as follows: George, lives in Illinois, and W. P. Mr. Switzer was educated in the public schools of Indiana, and when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted at Danville, Ill. in Company E, Thirty-fifth regiment, Illinois infantry, under Captain Oliver, and later served under Captain Yohe. After his enlistment his command was sent to St. Louis, Mo., and from there to Springfield, and later to Rolla, Mo., where they spent the winter. They then took part in the campaign in pursuit of General Price's army in Arkansas; later he participated in the battles of Pea Ridge, Corinth, Resaca, Stone river, Chattanooga, Franklin, Nashville and Chickamauga. He was severely wounded at the battle of Chickamauga by a minnie ball which struck him in the right leg, just below the knee, and as a reminder of that incident, he recently received a letter from the comrade who helped him off the field of battle when wounded, and in his letter the old comrade made

the following statement: "If you don't come and see me, I'll always wish that I had let the rebels have you." Mr. Switzer was mustered out of service at Louisville, Ky., in 1865 at the close of the war and went to Vermillion county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming a number of years. In 1873 he went to Indiana and after spending four years in that State came to Kansas, locating near La Cygne, Linn county, where he made his home for twenty-five years. In 1903 he came to Butler county and since that time has resided at Augusta. For a number of years he was engaged in the stone business but is now living practically retired.

Mr. Switzer was married while living in Indiana, to Miss Ella Rabb and the living children of this union are as above mentioned. Mr. Switzer is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Augusta Post, No. 105.

**Mrs. Louisa Black Kirkpatrick.**—In recounting the trials, hardships and adventures of the early pioneers who, by their courage, industry and foresight, laid the foundation for the development of the great West, it is a common fault of many historians to overlook, in a measure, the part played in that great drama by the American pioneer woman. Following that misconception we fall into the error of picturing the early pioneer as a man, wearing a buckskin coat and carrying a long barrelled rifle, or driving a team of oxen. We forget that the wives, mothers and daughters, who accompanied the small family expedition across the great plains in the early days, with no particular point of destination, were the dominant factors in the early settlement of the plains. When the women came, settlements became substantial. They were the anchors of the new civilization, and from that time on, the permanent settlements, upbuilding and development of the great American desert were assured.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who bore the maiden name of Louisa Black, may well be classed with those pioneer women, who bore their part nobly and well in the struggles of the pioneer days. She was born in Clinton county, Missouri, a daughter of William and Margaret (McClure) Black, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Virginia. The Black family located in Missouri about 1850, and in 1856 came to the territory of Kansas and settled in Morris county, where they took a government claim of 160 acres of land, and the father bought an additional 100 acres. In 1868 the Black family came to Butler county and settled on the Walnut river, near where Gordon is now located. Here the father took up government land and added to his original holdings until he became the owner of 480 acres. He followed farming and stock raising, and also was quite an extensive cattle dealer in the early days.

Louisa Black, whose name introduces this sketch, was united in marriage with Rufus Kirkpatrick, at El Dorado, Kans., in 1894. Mr. Kirkpatrick was born in Macon, Mo., in 1852, and was of Irish descent. He came to Butler county in 1868, and died in 1898, and his remains are

buried in Fairview cemetery. By a former marriage, the following children of Mr. Kirkpatrick survive: Ernest Kirkpatrick, a carpenter of Neosho, Mo., and Mrs. Ethel Farrow of Gordon, Kans.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick is one of the few women now living in Butler county who experienced the various vicissitudes and uncertainties of early day life on the plains. She was here during the devastation of the grasshoppers. She frequently saw the prairie fires which was one of the most dreaded enemies of the early pioneers, sweep over the plains, leaving the country a blackened and charred expanse of ruin, to be followed by days of black dust and cinders which made life almost unendurable.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick now resides in her cozy home at Augusta, well provided with an ample supply of this world's goods, being the owner of 146 acres of fertile valley land on the Walnut river, near Gordon, upon which is located several producing gas wells, and one oil well, producing 1,200 barrels per day, and other wells now being drilled.

**Cora Norris**, of Augusta, Kans., is a notable example of a successful Kansas business woman. Miss Norris was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and is a daughter of William W. and Sophia (White) Norris, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of Maine. They were the parents of three children, as follows: Mrs. Mary J. Ryan, Augusta; Mrs. Frances E. Sluss, lives three and one-half miles south of El Dorado and Cora, the subject of this sketch. The Norris family were pioneers of Butler county, coming here from Illinois in 1872. The father took a claim of school land in Spring township, where the family resided for more than twenty years. The father was a successful farmer and a highly respected citizen. He is now deceased, and his wife lives in Augusta with her daughter of whom this sketch is written.

Miss Norris was educated in the public schools of Butler county and the Augusta High School, and in addition to her school work, she received much private instruction from her mother, who, prior to her marriage, was a teacher, and in early life, was well equipped with a good education. Miss Norris taught school for a few years when she was appointed first assistant to Postmaster N. A. Yaeger at Augusta, and served in that capacity with two successive postmasters, P. W. Burdick and A. J. Ryan, and in all, held that responsible position for ten years. While employed in the postoffice, Miss Norris, being of a studious turn of mind, occupied her spare time in the study of shorthand, and later attended the Wichita Commercial College. She then accepted a position with G. M. Stratton at Clay Center, Kans., and later returned to Augusta where she is now engaged in stenographic work and the insurance business, principally fire insurance, representing seven of the leading fire insurance underwriters, and has a very satisfactory and constantly increasing business. Her office is in the postoffice building. She is a charter member of the Triple Tie, and belongs to the Fraternal Aid Union; the Occidental Association; Fraternal Citizens and Order of the Eastern Star.

**J. D. Robson**, owner and proprietor of the Robson Department Store, Augusta, Kans., is a progressive business man, and conducts one of the leading mercantile establishments of Butler county. Mr. Robson is a native of Scotland, born in Lin Lithgow in 1861, and is a son of Joshua Robson and Mary (Alice) Robson, both natives of Aberdeen, Scotland. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Charles Edward, Washington, D. C.; Mathew, New York City; Mrs. Alice Carr, Middleborough, Scotland; Arthur Henry, John Thomas and Alexander St. Clair, all residing in Glasgow, Scotland, and J. D., the subject of this sketch.

J. D. Robson was reared to manhood in his native land and England and received a very good education, attending the North of England Agricultural College at Great Ayton. His father was a shoe manufacturer at Stockton, England, and young Robson learned the shoe maker's trade and was buyer for his father's factory and also worked in a retail store for a time. He then established a wholesale and retail business in which he was successful. While in Sunderland, England, buying leather one day he met Henry Conyers, a wholesale leatherman, who advised him to invest all he had in leather and also all he could borrow. Mr. Robson took his advice and made a handsome profit, enough to establish himself in business.

In 1884 he left England and came to America, locating at Pittsburgh, Pa., where he remained one year. He then went to St. Louis, Mo., and was in the employ of the J. G. Brandt Shoe Company as a retail salesman for three years, when he entered the employ of the Tenant Walker Shoe Company, afterwards the Tenant Stribling Shoe Company, as traveling salesman. Later he was employed by the Bradley and Metcalf Shoe Company, of Milwaukee, Wis., and in 1902 opened a racket store at Augusta, Kans., and a short time afterward installed a general stock of goods and opened a department store. His mercantile undertaking in Augusta was a success from the start, and he now carries an extensive stock of goods which compares favorably with department stores to be found in larger cities. Mr. Robson's varied experience as a manufacturer and wholesaler, is of inestimable value to him in the retail business. He knows the mercantile business from the beginning to the end. Since coming to Augusta he has taken an active part in the civil life of the town and has always been ready and willing to cooperate in any movement for the betterment or advancement of his adopted city.

J. D. Robson was married in 1901, to Miss Lillian B. Carter, of Emporia, Kans. Mrs. Robson comes from a prominent Kansas family, her parents having settled in Lyon county in the sixties. Her father, Simri Carter, is the oldest living member of the Emporia Masonic Lodge. He was born in Chatham county, North Carolina, January 29, 1838. He became a Mason in Monrovia, Ind., in 1862, by special dispensation receiving the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry in one evening on

account of the Civil war. He joined Emporia Lodge September 24, 1868. He became Master in 1901. On account of his skill and knowledge he was made "the official poster" of the lodge, and all candidates from 1902 to 1914 became his pupils. Mr. and Mrs. Robson have one child, Robert, aged twelve, a student in the Augusta schools. Mr. Robson is a Knights Templar Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and the Anti-Horse Thief Association.

Mrs. Abner Hadley, an aunt of Mrs. Robson, was the first white woman to come to Emporia, Kans., after the town was laid out.

**W. H. Taylor**, a Butler county pioneer and prominent farmer and stockman of Murdock township, is a native of Indiana. He was born January 7, 1853, and is a son of R. L. and Jane Taylor, the father being of Scotch descent. The Taylor family came to Kansas in 1870, locating in Murdock township, Butler county, where the father homesteaded 160 acres of Government land. That was an early date in the settlement of Butler county, and there was much Government land to be had at that time. They built a log house of the crude primitive style on their claim, common to the early days, which was later replaced by a more pretentious structure.

The early days on the plains of Butler county was a struggle for existence, and few, if any, of the early pioneers could foresee, at that time, the great future possibilities that were in store for this uninhabited and practically uninhabited great stretch of prairie. It seemed as though the early settlers were beset by one calamity after another. One season would be too dry, the next too wet, then the hot winds would burn the country to a crisp, and if they had a crop, the grasshoppers would find it out, in some way, and hasten to the scene to collect their toll. But, the early pioneers were not of the kind to be discouraged, and finally fortune smiled on them and many of the early day hardships have been forgotten, and Butler county has developed into a land of prosperity and plenty, equalled by few sections of the country and excelled by none.

For a few years after coming to Butler county, R. L. Taylor engaged in freighting from Emporia, in connection with his farming. He died in 1878, and his wife died in 1912. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Harriet Casebere, Rockyford, Colo.; W. H., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary E. Ohlsen, (deceased); John, Toronto, Kans.; James, Stafford, Kans.; H. T., Pueblo, Colo., and Grace, Benton, Kans.

W. H. Taylor was about seventeen years of age when the family settled in Butler county, and as a young man, saw much of the pioneer life of this section, and he recalls many incidents in the early history of the county. He tells of one time that his father bought one thousand pounds of flour which became damaged with coal oil. He says that they used it, and that it lasted much longer than flour does without the





W. H. TAYLOR AND WIFE

coal oil added. And yet, with all their hardships and disadvantages they managed to create considerable amusement and have good times. The early day dances were great attractions for the young people, and Mr. Taylor relates with much amusement his experiences in learning to dance, and attending dances. On one occasion he was unable to return home on account of high water, so he just remained, and they had another dance the following night.

Mr. Taylor was married October 25, 1877, to Miss Sallie K. Liggett, a daughter of Nelson and Amanda Liggett of Illinois. The Liggett family was composed of the following children: Mrs. Mary Bruce, Ardway, Col.; Sallie K., wife of W. H. Taylor, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Emma McMorris, Brothers, Ill.; Harmon, Muncie, Ill., and Mrs. Jennie Parker, Muncie, Ill. To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have been born the following children: Robert, Spring Valley, Wash.; E. W. Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Edith Moore, Whitewater and K. W., Benton. The Taylor family are well and favorably known through the western part of Butler county, and have many friends.

Mr. Taylor relates the story of six big Indians coming to their home, and asking for food. His mother made them some coffee and gave them bread and meat. They refused to eat off the table, but took the food out under a cottonwood tree and ate the meal there.

**Rev. James Hayes.**—The reverend gentleman whose name introduces this sketch has been actively identified with Butler county for the past ten years, and his efforts in behalf of the spiritual welfare of the communicants of his denomination, as well as of the community in general, are of the kind that makes this a better world in which to live, as well as inspiring a confident and abiding faith in the future. Father Hayes is a native of England, born in Preston, Lancashire, in 1865. After obtaining a good preliminary education, at the age of thirteen, he entered St. Cuthbert's College, Durham, England, where he received a thorough education, especially in the classics, theology and philosophy, common to the lot of him who would aspire to the sacred obligations and responsibilities of the priesthood.

Father Hayes comes from well-to-do and prominent families, both on his maternal and paternal sides. His father, Robert Hayes, was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, and his mother, Sarah Duckett, was of English birth, having been born in Lancashire.

At the close of his college career of thirteen years, Father Hayes was ordained to the priesthood, after which he was engaged in missionary work in Liverpool, England, for fifteen years. In 1900 he came to America and was located at Custer, S. D., and after having spent six years in the Black Hills, came to Augusta, Kans., and since that time, has been active in his parochial work here, and in addition has charges or missions, at El Dorado, Cassoday and Spring Branch. He is an untiring worker and invariably gets results. Since coming to Butler county he has built a new church at Augusta and other churches at El

Dorado, Cassoday and Spring Branch. He also has had a fine parsonage erected at Augusta, and a parochial school and a residence for the sisters. All these improvements mean a vast amount of work and great sacrifice on the part of the priest who successfully promotes such enterprises and carries them through to a successful completion, but Father Hayes feels amply repaid, in the fact that his efforts have been successful and in the satisfaction that his work has not been in vain.

**Ed Weidlein.**—Augusta has won a reputation among the towns and cities of Kansas as a city that does things, and no small amount of credit for the reputation which has been established by Augusta is due to the capability and progressiveness of Ed Weidlein, who is now serving his fifth year as mayor of that thriving city. Of course, Mr. Weidlein has received the hearty support and co-operation of many of the leading citizens, otherwise he would have been unable to accomplish the many things that have been brought about during his administration of the city's affairs. He was first elected mayor in 1911, and re-elected to succeed himself in 1913 and again in 1915. During that time the city has built a filtering plant, at a cost of \$16,000 and an electric light plant at a cost of \$15,000. The city had acquired its own gas franchise, prior to the election of Mr. Weidlein. At the present time, Augusta has a sewer system under construction which will cost \$50,000 when completed. The various city utilities including gas, water and electric light, have been handled with such efficiency and maintained on such a sound business basis that when all the improvements contemplated are completed, they will have been paid for, and the city will be free of indebtedness. In view of the vast number of improvements made and the amount of money expended, it is probable that no other city of the size of Augusta in the United States can show such a record.

Ed Weidlein is a native of Henry county, Illinois, and a son of John W. and Nora (Emmert) Weidlein, natives of Germany. They were the parents of the following children: A. Weidlein, Geneseo, Ill.; Philip, Kansas City, Mo.; Louis, Lawrence, Kans.; Jacob, Leavenworth, Kans.; George, Wellman, Iowa; J. V., Lawrence, Kans., and Ed, whose name introduces this review.

Ed Weidlein received a good common school education in Henry county, Illinois, and when he reached manhood, began life as a farmer, in his native county. In 1878, he came to Kansas, locating near Peabody, Marion county, where he was engaged in farming until 1884. He then came to Butler county, locating at Augusta, where he engaged extensively in farming and stock feeding, and has been one of the leading patrons of the Wichita stock market for years. Recently he has become interested in the oil and gas development of Butler county and has made a great many profitable investments in that rapidly developing field.

Miss Pansy Wiley has been city clerk for the past four years and

has been an able and efficient helper to the mayor and city officials. The records of the city are a model of neatness, and she has every item pertaining to the expenditure of the city's money carefully recorded and filed, to be had at a moment's notice.

**C. D. Pimlot**, a Kansas pioneer and Civil war veteran, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Summit county in 1841, and is a son of Joseph and Joanna Pimlot. They were the parents of thirteen children, two of whom are now living: Horace, Carmen, Okla., and C. D., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Meralda Harbor, of Streator, Ill., died April, 1916. C. D. Pimlot was educated in the public schools of Ohio and Indiana, his parents removing to the latter State when he was a boy. He lived the life of the average boy of his time until the Civil war broke out when he enlisted, October 16, 1861, in Company E, Forty-fourth regiment, Indiana infantry. He took part in some of the important engagements of that great conflict, among which were Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River and Fort Donelson. He was severely wounded at the battle of Fort Donelson, but refused to go to a hospital, preferring to remain on the line of battle. During his term of service, which extended over a period of three years, one month and six days, he never asked for a furlough, and was never absent from duty. He was discharged November 22, 1864, and mustered out at Chattanooga, Tenn., and shortly afterwards was appointed a member of the metropolitan police at Chattanooga, under Governor Brownlow, and served in that capacity for four years.

Mr. Pimlot worked at the carpenter's trade in early life and in 1879 came to Kansas, locating at Augusta. A year later he engaged in farming, and followed that occupation for twenty-three years when he returned to Augusta and again took up carpenter work and was engaged in building there until 1914, when he retired.

After an absence of fifty-one years, Mr. Pimlot made a trip back to Illinois to visit his brother and sister who resided at Streator, and his description of that visit makes a much stronger story than the case of Rip Van Winkle. He says not a person there knew him, not even his brother or sister. Mr. Pimlot was united in marriage September 1, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tenn., with Melcenia Pearson and five children have been born to this union, as follows: Joseph A., Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Georgia McDonald, Trinidad, Colo.; Mrs. Kittie Craig, Seattle, Wash.; Myrtle O., who resides with her father, and Mrs. Lulu Foltz, resides in Augusta. Mrs. Pimlot departed this life in 1911 and her remains rest in the Augusta cemetery. Mr. Pimlot is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, L. E. King Post No. 5, Augusta.

**J. H. Skaer**, a Butler county pioneer, now residing at Augusta, is a native of Illinois. He is a son of George and Caroline (Seibert) Skaer, natives of Germany. The Skaer family consisted of the following children: Henry, lives in Perry county, Illinois; William, Augusta; J. H., the subject of this sketch; Edward; Albert; Arthur; and Walter, all

residing at or near Augusta, and Mrs. Carrie McVay, Ingersoll, Okla., and James, Wichita, Kans., The father died in 1912, the mother having preceded him in death five years.

The Skaer family came to Butler county in 1877, and made their home in the town of Augusta about a year. The father bought a farm of 320 acres, four miles east of town, and later bought 640 acres, a mile east of Augusta. George Skaer, the father, was a pioneer in the truest sense of the word. In 1849 he joined the great host of fortune-seekers and went to California, making the trip across the plains and over the mountains. He walked the entire distance, and before reaching his destination his shoes became worn out, but he continued his journey and after months of hardship reached California with torn and bleeding feet. He remained on the coast for three years when he returned to Kansas by way of the Panama route.

J. H. Skaer has made farming the principal occupation of his life and has been unusually successful. When the Cherokee strip was opened up to settlement, he took a Government claim there which has developed into very valuable property and which he still owns. He has been active in the oil and gas development of the Augusta field, since that section of Butler county has begun to yield its underground treasure in such unlimited and profitable quantities, and altogether Mr. Skaer is one of Butler county's most progressive and prosperous citizens.

He was united in marriage, in 1902, to Miss Eva Marckley of Augusta, Kans., whose parents were pioneers of that section. To Mr. and Mrs. Skaer have been born three children as follows: Ray, a daughter, died October 1, 1907, and Myrle and Evlyn, residing at home. Mr. Skaer is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Skaer family are well known and highly respected in Butler county.

**J. J. McCool**, a prominent real estate and insurance man of Augusta, is a real Kansas pioneer. He was born in Ohio in 1847, and is a son of David and Eliza (Johnson) McCool, both natives of Ohio, and now deceased. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are now living: D. S., Los Angeles, Cal., and J. J., the subject of this sketch. The McCool family were early settlers in Kansas, coming to this State in 1859, and locating in Lyon county seven miles west of Emporia. When the Civil war broke out the father enlisted and served throughout the war, the wife and children remaining on their Lyon county farm. After the father returned from the army he removed to Ohio with the family.

J. J. McCool did not remain in Ohio very long before he came back to Kansas and, after a short stay at Emporia, settled in Butler county, where he bought 160 acres of land, just south of Augusta. Shortly afterwards he sold this place and rented land for a time and later engaged in the grocery business at Augusta, which he conducted for four or five years. He then followed farming again for a period of about ten years when he again took up the grocery business in Augusta, and followed

that line of business until he engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business at which he has been unusually successful. Mr. McCool just missed being a veteran of the Civil war but it was not his fault. During the war he was enrolled in the Eleventh regiment Kansas cavalry at Emporia, but he was only sixteen years old at the time, and his father, who was then in the service, refused permission for the boy to enlist.

Mr. McCool is one of the pioneers who saw Butler county in its primitive period. He was here in 1861, and has a distinct recollection of many of the early day landmarks. He saw the old log house on the trail, near the ford of the Walnut river at El Dorado, which was the first house in that section, and he recollects Jacob Landis who had a cabin at the forks of the Walnut river where he conducted a trading post with the Indians. He says that after they located in Kansas that his father made regular hunting trips a short distance west, about as far as the present location of Hutchinson, and killed any number of buffalo and thus kept on hand a supply of buffalo meat. He saw the Walnut river in 1860, the dry year, when it was perfectly dry, with the exception of a few little pools. He has a vast store of interesting reminiscences concerning the early history of Butler county, and possesses the faculty of narrating them in an entertaining way. Mr. McCool is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has an extensive acquaintance in Butler county.

**A. L. Skaer**, of Augusta, who is a prominent factor in the development of the oil and gas industry in Butler county, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Ashley, Washington county, in 1872, and is a son of George and Carolina (Seibert) Skaer, natives of Germany, who were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are living, as follows: Henry, Tamora, Ill.; James, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Carrie McVay, Ingersoll, Okla.; E. C., Augusta; William; Walter; A. W.; G. P. and J. H., all residing at or near Augusta. A. L. Skaer came to Augusta with his parents in 1878, when he was about six years old. The family located about three miles east of town where the father bought 320 acres of land. He bought additional land from time to time until he owned 1,100 acres, which is now divided among his children.

A. L. Skaer received a good education in the public schools of Augusta and began life as a farmer and later engaged in the automobile business at Augusta, which he has conducted in connection with his farming operations to the present time. For a number of years he handled the Ford and Buick cars, but now represents the Dodge Bros and the Chalmers companies. He does an extensive automobile business, and is considered one of the best posted men in that line of industry in this section. He owns 160 acres which was a part of the old home place, and which is located in the heart of the rich oil and gas producing district. There are now three producing wells on his farm and preparations are being made for drilling others. Mr. Skaer and four

of his brothers constitute the Skaer Gas & Drilling Company and now have twelve producing wells, which are a source of immense profits to them. They are among the extensive operators of the district, and are carrying out extensive plans of development, and Mr. Skaer is now devoting his time largely to the oil and gas business.

In 1895, A. L. Skaer and Miss Nora Jones were united in marriage. Mrs. Skaer is a native of Augusta, and her parents were pioneers of that locality. To Mr. and Mrs. Skaer have been born two children, as follows: Fremont, a student in the Augusta High School and a member of the class of 1916, and Fern, who was graduated from the Augusta High School in the class of 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Skaer are well known in Augusta, where they have many friends.

**G. F. Holmes**, police judge and justice of the peace, Augusta, Kans., is a Civil war veteran who for a quarter of a century has been identified with the interests of Butler county. Judge Holmes is a native of Indiana, born in 1842, and is a son of William S. and Elizabeth (Iseminger) Holmes. The father was a native of North Carolina, and when a child twelve years of age went to Indiana with his parents; the family, however, had lived in Kentucky about twelve years preceding their removal to Indiana. The mother came from an old Pennsylvania family of German descent. G. F. Holmes was one of a family of seven children, as follows: Mrs. Mary Wirt, lives at Benedict, Neb.; Daniel, died at Creston, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret A. Badger, of Chariton, Iowa; Martha B., died in infancy; G. F., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Kalista Martin, of Chariton, Iowa, and William S., also of Chariton.

G. F. Holmes received his education in the common schools of Indiana and Iowa, his parents removing to the latter State when he was twelve years old. He remained at home following the peaceful pursuits of the average boy until the Civil war broke out, when at the age of nineteen, July 8, 1861, he enlisted, becoming a member of Company B, Sixth regiment Iowa infantry. He participated in many important battles and at the battle of Shiloh was severely wounded, a musket ball passing through his right lung but being a young man of excellent physique and good health, he recovered from this severe wound in an unusually short time. He was discharged October 22, 1862, and after fully recovering from his wound, he reenlisted at Chariton, Iowa, and served until the close of the war. During his second term of service in the army, his regiment operated in the Army of the West and did considerable guarding of railroad property, especially in the locality of Memphis, Tenn. Mr. Holmes was finally discharged from the army at the close of the war with an unusually good military record. Besides receiving the wound above mentioned he experienced many narrow escapes. On the same day that he was wounded, his canteen was shot off.

At the close of the war he returned to Iowa where he was engaged in farming until 1870, when he was elected sheriff of Lucas county, and served in that capacity for ten years or until 1880. He then removed to

York county, Nebraska, where he bought a farm, and for twelve years was engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1892 he disposed of his interests in Nebraska and came to Butler county, Kansas, and bought a farm adjoining the town of Augusta, on the west, where he resided until 1908, when he sold his farm and removed to Augusta.

Judge Holmes has served as police judge and justice of the peace for the past five years, and as a judicial officer, has won a wide reputation for fairness in the administration of the equity side of his court, as well as a broad knowledge of the law in the application of legal principles. Although Judge Holmes has passed the three score and ten milestone, he is a man of unusual physical and mental activity, and he has enjoyed the best of health during his long career. He says that he never took a dose of medicine until he was past sixty years of age, and that statement sounds very reasonable as he has every appearance of a man who does not need any medicine.

Judge Holmes has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Phoebe Badger, to whom he was married in 1863; she died in 1904, leaving the following children: Kalista Frickey; U. G., a farmer near Augusta; Martha D. Chance, Wichita, Kans.; Walter E., lives near Latham; Mrs. Bess M. Arnold, El Dorado, and Charles D., Augusta. Mr. Holmes's second marriage took place November 15, 1905, when he was united in marriage to Mrs. Henrietta DeMoss, of Augusta, Kans. Mrs. Holmes is a native of Kentucky and was left an orphan at an early age. Her mother died when she was three years old and shortly afterward her father was killed by bushwhackers in Kentucky during the Civil war. She was brought to Butler county when a mere child by an uncle, J. K. Withrow.

**J. L. Beck**, who is engaged in the United States mail service as rural mail carrier out of Augusta, is a native of Missouri. He was born at Weston, and is a son of J. F. and Sophia (Wirth) Beck, natives of Germany. They came to America and located at Weston, Mo., in 1857, where they still reside; the father is eighty-four years old and the mother, seventy-nine. They were the parents of thirteen children, ten of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Carrie Lamar, Platte county, Mo.; Mrs. Louise Roberts, Jackson county, Mo.; W. C., Weston, Mo.; Miss Katie Beck, Weston, Mo.; J. L., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Clara Ford, Jefferson county, Kans.; Mrs. Rosa Smithers, Platte county, Mo.; Mrs. Anna Thompson, Platte county, Mo.; A. H., Platte county, Mo., and Chris, resides in Colorado.

J. L. Beck received his education in the public schools of Missouri, and at the age of twenty-two, engaged in farming for himself in Missouri, and five years later, came to Kansas, settling in Butler county. In 1894, he bought 140 acres of land near Augusta, where he lived for seven years, when he sold it for \$1,400 and bought 160 acres two miles south of Augusta. He recently sold this farm for \$8,000, the increase in value being largely due to the oil and gas development. Mr. Beck



removed to Augusta in 1901, and in February, 1902, received the appointment of rural mail carrier, and since that time has faithfully and efficiently served as carrier on rural route No. 2. During all these years in Uncle Sam's service he has discharged the duties of his office in a way that has given him a wide acquaintance, and made many friends among his many patrons with whom he comes in contact on his daily trips. He has won the reputation for not being the sordid, crusty kind of a public official who doles out public service according to metes and bounds prescribed by the department, but is cheerful and accommodating and couldn't be otherwise if he tried, because that is his nature. He has driven an automobile on his route for the past two years.

Mr. Beck was married in 1904 to Miss Maggie Treadway of Platte county, Missouri, a member of a pioneer family of that section, and a former schoolmate of Mr. Beck. To this union have been born five children, as follows: Mrs. Pearl Brown of Kansas City, Kans.; Mrs. Sophia Bornholt, Hutchinson, Kans.; George; Roy and Margaret, living at home.

Mr. Beck is a member of the Masonic lodge, Augusta; the Fraternal Aid Union, and the Kansas Fraternal Citizens, and is local deputy of the latter order. He is also a member of the Anti-Horse Thief Association. He is a substantial citizen, a progressive man and a loyal Augustian, and says, "Augusta is the best town in the United States."

**Charles H. Stewart**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer, and a Civil war veteran who served with distinction throughout that great conflict. He was a man who always coolly and courageously performed his duty whether it was amidst the bursting shells of the battlefield, or in the ordinary quiet walks of civil life. That he had the courage of his convictions, both in times of war and in peace, may be truthfully said of him.

Charles H. Stewart was born in South Granby, Oswego county, New York, December 9, 1843, and was a son of Simon and Maria (Woodruff) Stewart, both natives of New York. The Stewart family were very early settlers in that section of New York State, and for a number of years lived in the neighborhood of a place called Stewart's corner, settling there about the time of the French and Indian war. The paternal grandfather of Charles Stewart served in the War of 1812. He was of Scotch descent. Maria Woodruff, the mother of Charles H. Stewart, was also a native of New York and of English descent. Simon Stewart, the father, was a lumberman and shipped his lumber from Oswego county in his own boats. Later in life, he removed to Onondaga county where he spent the remainder of his life.

Charles H. Stewart was reared in New York State and educated in the public schools, and before he reached the age of eighteen, on September 16, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, First New York light artillery, under Captain Pettit. His term of enlistment expired December 24,



CHARLES H. STEWART



MRS. CHARLES H. STEWART

1863, and on the following day he re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer, serving until after the close of the war, receiving his final honorable discharge June 18, 1865. Mr. Stewart participated in the following engagements, in his long and eventful military career: Fair Oak; Redoubt No. 5, near Richmond; Savage Station; White Oak Swamp and Nelson's Farm; Malvern Hill; Hanison's Landing; Vienna; Antietam; Charlestown, W. Va., Fredericksburg; Second Fredericksburg; Chancellorsville; United States Ford; Gettysburg; Mine Run; Wilderness; Spottsylvania Court House; North Ann River; Ponunkly River; Bethany Church; Cold Harbor; Siege of Petersburg, near Avery House; Siege of Petersburg, near Yellow Tavern; Siege of Petersburg, near Popular Grove Church; Siege of Petersburg at Fort Clarke and Siebert. During his career, he was under fire 361 days, but was never wounded, nor in a hospital, although he had some very narrow escapes. During one engagement a horse was shot from under him, and at another time one of the tugs of his harness was cut by a bullet, and altogether his military record was one of unusual merit in which his family may take a just pride.

At the close of the war, Mr. Stewart returned to his New York State home, and after spending a few days there he went to the Pennsylvania oil fields, July 5, 1865. This was about the time of the great oil excitement in the vicinity of Oil creek. He was connected with the oil business there for a couple of years, being engaged in constructing oil tanks on Oil creek and for a time was in the employ of Frank Tarbell, father of Ida Tarbell. In 1868, Mr. Stewart went to Kankakee, Ill., where he married Miss Rachael E. Rowley, the marriage taking place November 30, 1868. She is a daughter of William G. and Elizabeth (Riesdorph) Rowley. The former was born in Kentucky, of Pennsylvania parents, who were temporarily residing in that State for the purpose of settling an estate, consisting of a plantation, including the negroes, which his mother had inherited. The family returned to Philadelphia, Pa., where William G. grew to manhood. Elizabeth Riesdorph, mother of Mrs. Stewart, was born and reared in New York City, and was a descendant of early Holland settlers of what is now New York City.

Mrs. Stewart was born in Sullivan county, New York. Her father was a lumberman in the early days in that State. His wife died in New York State in 1863, and the following year, he removed with his family to Muscatine county, Iowa, where they remained about a year when they removed to Kankakee, Ill., arriving there April 9, 1865, the day that General Lee surrendered. The father bought a farm about ten miles from Kankakee, and Mrs. Stewart, who was then quite a young girl, taught school in that locality two terms. Shortly after her marriage, the Rowley family and Mr. Stewart came to Kansas in the fall of 1868. They crossed the Kaw river and went to Shawnee county where her father had homesteaded the previous spring. After living in Shawnee county for ten years, Mr. and Mrs. Rowley returned to Indiana

where they remained until 1882, when they came to Butler county and later removed to Wichita where the father died. Mrs. Stewart was one of a family of nine children, the two younger sisters being of the second marriage of her father. The children are in order of birth as follows: Nathan, deceased; Henry, deceased; Rachael, Mrs. Stewart, the subject of this sketch; Mary, married Aaron Blakeman, Baldwinsville, N. Y.; James, lives in Idaho; Lucy, married Thomas St. Denis of Wichita, and is now deceased; Walter, lives in Alaska; Emma, married Charles Richards, lives in Seattle; and the two half sisters are Cora, married Harry Foster, Muskogee, Okla., and Kate, married Mr. Davenport of Seattle, Wash.

After spending the winter of 1868-69 in Shawnee county, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart returned to Oswego county, New York, where Mr. Stewart was engaged in the milling business ten years. In 1879 he came to Butler county and bought a farm in Benton township where he built a good substantial house, which was one of the best in the neighborhood. After he had completed his home, Mrs. Stewart and the children joined him here. His farm was well improved and was one of the best farms in Benton township, which he sold later for \$10,000, and bought 320 acres, one mile north of his first home. In October, 1900, he disposed of his property in Benton township, and moved to El Dorado, where he bought a comfortable home, and later purchased 520 acres in Chelsea township. He died at his home in El Dorado August 19, 1904. Mr. Stewart was a staunch Republican, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for president. He was prominent in lodge circles, being a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a student all his life, being a great reader of the best authors, and also kept himself well posted on current events.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were born the following children: Walter C., was a resident of Pittsburg, Kans., and died at Neosho, Mo., in 1913, aged forty-three years; Ernest H., a farmer, Fairview, Okla.; Carrie, the wife of E. A. Berry, near Fort Cobb, Okla.; and Charles Duwayne, operator for the Santa Fe railroad at El Dorado, Kans. He served in the United States marine corps and was on duty on the battleship, North Carolina, when the bodies of the Maine victims were taken from Havana harbor to Arlington cemetery, on board the North Carolina. He received his discharge at Norfolk, Va., shortly afterwards.

Mrs. Stewart resides at El Dorado and is an unusually capable woman. She is a prominent member of the Woman's Relief Corps, having been a member of that organization for a number of years. She has been a delegate to five State conventions of that order, and was a delegate to two National conventions, one at Washington, D. C., and the other at Rochester, N. Y. She is also a member of the Eastern Star and the W. B. Club, and is a member of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Stewart bears the distinction of having served

on the first jury in Butler county composed of women. She is an extensive traveller and is well informed.

**Dr. M. Corcoran**, a leading veterinary surgeon of Butler county, located at Augusta, is a native of Nebraska. He was born in Pawnee county, that State, and is a son of Patrick Corcoran, and his mother bore the maiden name of Kelly, natives of Ireland. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Anna Delaney, Wymore, Neb.; Mrs. Mary Culver, Bainville, Kans.; John, Rose Hill, Kans.; and Dr. Corcoran, whose name introduces this review. Dr. Corcoran received a good education in the public schools of Nebraska, staying with a physician, Dr. Cave, now of Wichita, Kans. After completing his preparatory education, Dr. Corcoran entered the St. Joseph Veterinary College at St. Joseph, Mo., where he took a three years' course, and was graduated in the class of 1913 with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Surgery, and a year later took a post graduate course. During one year of his college course he practiced part of the time in Iowa, and after graduating, came to Rose Hill, Butler county, where he was engaged in the practice about seven months.

In 1911 he located at Augusta and has built up an extensive practice throughout Butler county, and is frequently called for professional services in other parts of the State. Dr. Corcoran is recognized as an unusually skillful veterinary surgeon. He is capable and painstaking and is recognized by other members of his profession as being a close student of the rapidly advancing science of veterinary surgery, and thoroughly posted in the intricate details of his profession.

Dr. Corcoran was united in marriage in 1913 at Wichita, Kans., with Ella Dobbins of Augusta. They have two children, Edward Volney and Helen Margaret. Dr. Corcoran is a member of the Mystic Workers of the World, and one of Augusta's most progressive citizens.

**H. G. Russell.**—The noble pioneer men and women who endured the hardships and vicissitudes of early life on the plains, and laid the foundation for later industrial development and social betterment are rapidly disappearing. H. G. Russell whose name introduces this sketch is a notable member of that band of noble pioneers who has passed to the great beyond. He was born in Athens county, Ohio, in 1834, and died at his home in Augusta in March, 1913. He is survived by his venerable wife, Mrs. Sarah Russell, who is a typical representative of the best type of American womanhood. She was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, in 1841, and now resides in Augusta, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1870, and settled on Four Mile Creek. They bought 160 acres of land upon which they built a small frame house and later as their means permitted built a more pretentious residence and made substantial improvements. They had sold 40 acres of their land prior to 1909, and that year disposed of the balance of their farm properties and bought property in Augusta,

where Mrs. Russell now resides. They lived on the old homestead for forty years and formed many attachments for the old place, but in deciding to move to Augusta they took into consideration the many added comforts and conveniences, which they found more suitable to them in their declining years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Russell have been born five children, four of whom are living: Warren is a carpenter and lives in Illinois; Mrs. James Bedford lives in Wichita; Mrs. Clara Harrison died in 1905 at Wichita; Charles, Macon, Ill., and Mrs. Bertha Cook lives near La Junta, Colo.

Mrs. Russell has many interesting recollections of early day life in Butler county. She has experienced all the various freaks of nature and surprises of the elements that were in store for the early settlers of Kansas. She relates an incident of when a cyclone blew away their barn, and uprooted their orchard and performed the various pranks known only to cyclones. She was here in 1874 when the grasshoppers swept down in great clouds on the unsuspecting early settlers and destroyed everything in sight. She says that all they had left after the visit of the grasshoppers was one mess of roasting ears. Mr. Russell at that time was one of the distributing agents for the Aid Society who were providing for the destitute, but he managed to get along and refused to accept any aid for himself.

Mrs. Russell is one of the interesting old ladies of Butler county and may she live long to recount her pioneer experiences for many years to come.

**Carl F. Buck**, a leading manufacturer of Augusta, Kans., is a native son of Butler county. He was born in Augusta in 1878, the only child of F. C. and Mary S. (Dix) Buck. The father was a native of Maine and an early settler of Butler county, and during his lifetime was prominent in the political life of the county. He served as county surveyor a number of terms and died in 1881 when Carl F. was three years old. Mary S. Dix was born in Indiana and is now a resident of Butler county, residing on a farm three miles northwest of Augusta.

Carl F. Buck received a good common school education, and afterwards attended the State Normal School at Emporia, and after leaving school returned to his home in Augusta in 1879 and became interested in the bee business. He began in a very humble way, and at first had only two stands of bees, and at the same time began dealing in supplies for bee keepers. His business developed rapidly and in 1899, he entered the wholesale business and began selling to dealers as well as to bee keepers. In 1905 he engaged in the manufacture of the Weed process comb foundations, and this business has developed beyond all anticipated proportions. He is one of the large manufacturers of this product, so essential to successful bee keepers, in the United States and at present there are only five other factories in the United States similar to this one. He carries a large supply and at the present time has about three car loads of the finished product on hand. He ships his product to nearly every State in the Union.

Mr. Buck's factory at Augusta is large and well suited for the purpose of manufacturing his product. The main building is 25x125 feet, and is divided into six compartments, and in addition to this building he has a store house 25x50 feet. Comb foundation which is the chief product of his factory has become a commercial necessity with bee keepers who aim to conduct their business on the most profitable basis and get the best results. Mr. Buck says that it is a demonstrated fact that bees will consume 20 pounds of honey while making one pound of wax in the construction of the comb. The average price of the prepared foundation is 60 cents a pound and if the investment of that amount saves the bee keeper twenty pounds of honey at the average market price it is a simple process to compute the economy of using the product of this factory. Mr. Buck is a practical bee man as well as a manufacturer and keeps on hand about 170 stands of bees from which he ships large quantities of honey. The capacity of his factory is about 500 pounds of comb foundation per day.

Mr. Buck was united in marriage in 1900, to Miss Ruby McKittrick, of Augusta, Kans. She came to Butler county with her parents from Ohio in the eighties and they located at Augusta where Mrs. Buck was reared and educated. To Mr. and Mrs. Buck has been born one child, Floyd J., now a student in the Augusta High School. Mr. Buck is one of the progressive business men of Augusta where he and his wife are well known and have many friends.

**John S. Loy.**—In the death of John S. Loy which occurred at Augusta in 1899, the grim reaper gathered in another worthy Butler county pioneer who will long be remembered as one of the men who performed his part nobly and well, in laying the foundation for the future greatness of Butler county, and Kansas. He was a native of Ohio, born in Darke county, in 1836, and reared and educated in his native county, and in 1857, was united in marriage at La Fayette, Ind., to Mrs. M. J. Oldbury, a native of Gibson county, Indiana, born in 1839, who still survives him and resides in her comfortable home at Augusta. She is a representative of that type of womanhood who seem to become fewer as the years come and go, but perhaps not; it may be that our estimation of humanity changes as we grow older, and our viewpoint changes. Be that as it may, Mrs. Loy is a grand old lady and a credit to the county in which she lives, and she is rich in the possession of the love and esteem of all who know her.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Loy lived in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, near the famous old Indian battle ground. In 1859, they came to Kansas and settled at Cottonwood Falls, which was then in Wise county, but now Chase. These were real pioneer times in that section of Kansas and that settlement was well on the border of the frontier. Here Mr. Loy conducted a general store until 1868, when they came to Butler county, where the frontier had not yet disappeared. They took a claim of 160 acres, a half mile south of where Augusta now stands.

When they came here the town of Augusta consisted of one log house, which was owned by C. N. James. He conducted a store, postoffice, school, Sunday school, and a residence in this log house, and it was also used as a polling place on election day.

Mr. Loy and a Mr. Palmer, who came with him, bought a saw-mill with which they sawed lumber for a house and erected a crude structure 16x23 feet. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Palmer and a man named Tibbetts, each built a room for himself, adjoining the Loy residence, and they all practically lived in the same house for a time, or, in other words, they pooled their rooms and made a house which possibly might have furnished the idea of later combinations of big business, which has given our law-makers so much trouble in recent years. Mr. Loy was interested in the operation of the saw-mill until about 1879, when he followed butchering for awhile and later was engaged in the quarry business, shipping stone to Wichita. During the last twelve years of his life, he was practically retired on account of poor health. He, at one time, owned the site of the first grist-mill on the Walnut river, which was at the point where the South bridge crosses the river.

To Mr. and Mrs. Loy were born nine children, as follows: Louisa Catherine, married Matt Brooks, now deceased and they had five children, Addie Bell, Mary Diana, Mabel, John Alvin and Lola; Clara, died at the age of eighteen months; John Edward, died at the age of eighteen months; Mrs. Georgiana Seaman, died at Augusta, and left the following children: Goldie; A. Z.; Mary; Lillie and Seth; Arthur T., lives at Fowler, Colo.; Minnie Ellen, died at the age of seven; Nellie Viola, died at the age of four; George, died in infancy; and Bessie Dickey, Cleveland, Texas. By a former marriage, Mr. Loy had one son, H. D. Loy, who now resides in Augusta, and who is to Mrs. Loy a real son. Mrs. Loy lives on the old home place where she and her husband settled in 1868, nearly a half century ago, and many fond recollections, of when her heart beat young, and she knew not the limitations imposed by time, cluster about her in these, the sunset days of her life.

Mr. Loy, two daughters and a son, are buried in a private burial ground near the residence where the faithful wife and mother sees that their graves are carefully looked after.

**L. S. Hall, M. D.**, of Augusta, Kans., is one of the pioneer physicians of that section, not that Dr. Hall is an old man, for he is just in the prime of his professional work, but when he began the practice of his profession in 1878, he began at Augusta, which was then a new country. During the days of his early practice on the plains, Dr. Hall had all the experiences of the average pioneer doctor. His practice extended over a large scope of country, the roads were bad and frequently there were none at all, and the doctor just followed the "trail," or rode horseback across the prairie, regardless of trail, and it was not an uncommon thing for him, on some of his eighteen or twenty-mile night rides, to lose his way on the prairie and spend the night by the side of a



friendly hay stack, and when the sun rose next morning, get his bearings and proceed on his mission of administering to the sick and suffering. When he located in Augusta, the entire business district of the town consisted of one store building, which was occupied by Locke's drug store, located just north of where Etterson's store now stands. One of the first calls that Dr. Hall had after coming to Augusta was a confinement case, the birth of Carl F. Buck, who is now a prosperous manufacturer of Augusta, a sketch of whom appears in this volume.

Dr. Hall has been in the practice in Augusta and vicinity since 1878, and has been unusually successful in the practice of his profession. During the years of 1896 and 1897, however, he took a respite from the strenuous practice of medicine on account of failing health, and spent those two years at Clinton, Mo., when he again resumed his practice at Augusta.

Dr. Hall was born at Spencer, N. Y., in 1855, and is a son of H. S. and Cornelia L. (Fisher) Hall, both natives of New York, and descendants of old New York State stock. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Henry H., died in New York City; Mrs. Olive H. Norris, died at Spencer, N. Y.; May F., unmarried and lives at Spencer, N. Y.; Thomas F., El Paso, Tex.; Mrs. Emily C. Woodruff, now a widow and lives at Chautauqua, N. Y.; Dr. L. S., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Rosamond C. Valentine and Mrs. Catherine L. Fisher, both living at Spencer, N. Y. After receiving a good preparatory education Dr. Hall entered Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City, where he was graduated in 1878 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and shortly afterwards came to Augusta and engaged in the practice of his profession as above stated.

Dr. L. S. Hall was united in marriage at Augusta, Kans., in 1880, to Miss Frances Houston, of El Dorado, Kans. Her parents were early settlers in Butler county, coming here from Iowa in the seventies. At the time of her marriage, Mrs. Hall was making her home with an uncle, Rev. L. Harvey, of El Dorado. To Dr. and Mrs. Hall have been born two children, as follows: Mrs. Gertrude E. Watt, the wife of a prominent real estate man of Kansas City, Mo., and Robert L., an employee of the Milwaukee and St. Louis Railway at Aberdeen, S. D.

Dr. Hall is a Democrat, and since coming to Kansas has taken an active part in behalf of the welfare of his party, and furthering the cause of the local Democratic organization. He has served as chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, the Democratic Congressional Committee, and has also been a member of the Democratic State Committee.

**James A. Rhodes**, now deceased, a veteran of the Civil war and Butler county pioneer, was a native of Indiana. He was born in 1827 and died at Augusta in 1888. During the second year of the war, he enlisted in the Seventy-first regiment, Indiana infantry, and served about three years or until the surrender of Lee closed the last chapter of that

great conflict. During his term of service, Mr. Rhodes was twice captured by the enemy. The first time he escaped after being a prisoner for a short time, and the second time he was paroled.

At the close of the war he returned to his Indiana home. Mr. Rhodes married Miss Lucy P. Richardson at Clinton, Ind., in 1854, who survives him, and now resides at Augusta, Kans. She was born at Clinton, Ind., and was a daughter of William A. and Sarah Ann (Parker) Richardson, who were the parents of nine children, only one other besides Mrs. Rhodes is now living, Dr. John F. Richardson, a prominent physician of Hunnewell, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes were born William A., who died in 1891, aged thirty-five years, and Flora, who resides in Augusta with her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1871, and took a government claim. At that time the Government land office was at Humboldt, Kans., and Mr. Rhodes walked from Emporia to Humboldt to file on his claim, and from there walked to Augusta. After living on the claim about six months they removed to Augusta, and Mr. Rhodes was engaged in the real estate business for a time, and was engaged in various business enterprises during his life time. He led a very busy life and was uniformly successful in his undertakings. He was city treasurer of Augusta for seven years, and had much to do with the early development of the town. Mrs. Rhodes has a remarkably retentive memory and relates many interesting incidents in the early history of Butler county. She says that Mrs. Augusta James, in whose honor the town of Augusta was named, was the first woman who called on her in her new Augusta home. Mrs. Rhodes was here at a time when Butler county was almost in its primitive state, and is a first-hand authority on much of the important history of this section of Kansas.

**John T. Wells**, now deceased, was one of Butler county's most substantial citizens. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nancy Wells, a representative of that noble type of Kansas pioneer women, and she now resides at Augusta. John T. Wells was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1830, and was a son of John and Mary (Milson) Wells, natives of Virginia. John T. Wells came west in early life, locating in Missouri and, on December 2, 1855, was united in marriage at Boonville, Mo., to Miss Nancy Sifers, a native of Morgan county, Ohio, born in 1833. After their marriage they lived at Boonville, Mo., until 1857, when they came to Kansas, locating at Leavenworth. About two and one-half years later they returned to Boonville and resided in that section until 1882. They then came to Butler county, Kansas, locating five miles southeast of Augusta, where they bought 320 acres of land from Stephen Lehr, for which they paid \$2,500.

The place was not very well improved, and Mr. and Mrs. Wells proceeded to make substantial improvements, and were successfully engaged in farming and stock raising on that place for seventeen years, and in 1899 sold it for \$8,000, and removed to Augusta, where Mr.

Wells lived in retirement until his death, September 25, 1914, and his remains now rest in the Elmwood cemetery at Augusta. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells were born four children, as follows: Minnie May, died in infancy; Ida, who married Homer Freeman, died in 1899; Charles, lives in Wichita; and Mrs. Emma Bartlett, lives at Augusta.

Mrs. Wells has a vivid recollection of many early day events of the days in Kansas and Butler county when neighbors were a long distance from each other, but it seems that the scarcer neighbors were and the farther they were from each other, the more they neighbored. In those early times they took a genuine neighborly interest in each other's welfare. Perhaps, and no doubt, environments created that neighborly spirit, for the early settlers, possibly, needed the real co-operation and sympathy of one another more than people do in this day of a more perfect social organization, and with better equipped appliances and conveniences for getting along in the world with less sympathetic co-operation. At any rate, things seem to have changed and many of us, in reflecting on the past, long for the days of the old fashioned neighbor.

**George William Ohmart**, a Civil war veteran who has been identified with industrial Augusta for the past sixteen years, is a native of Illinois, born in Montgomery county in 1846. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and his mother died when he was three years of age, leaving the following children: Rachael Catherine, married a man named Miller, and died in Oklahoma; Samuel died at the age of five; Charles E., Augusta; and George W., of this review.

George W. Ohmart received his education in the public schools of Logan county, Illinois, and at the age of sixteen enlisted in Company B, Seventy-third Illinois infantry. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and he saw severe service for a period of about three years. He was at the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville, and during the Atlanta campaign, he was under fire almost continuously for four months. At the battle of Franklin, which history records as one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil war, he received a wound which nearly ended his military career. A musket ball penetrated his hat inflicting a flesh wound on his right temple and glanced from his skull, and passed through twenty-four thicknesses of his blanket which he was carrying on his shoulder. Mr. Ohmart was unconscious for an hour or more, from the effect of the wound. He was "clipped" by bullets, as he calls it, on two other occasions, and at another time received a cut on the lip from a sword in a hand to hand conflict.

At the close of the war he returned to Illinois, and learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1880, he went to Nebraska, and settled in Otoe county where he remained twelve years; and then to Valley county, Nebraska, remaining two years. In 1894 he came to Kansas, and after spending one year at Andover went to Benton, remaining there until

1900. He then came to Augusta where he engaged in farming about two years, when he opened a blacksmith shop which he has since conducted.

Mr. Ohmart was united in marriage at Jacksonville, Ill., in 1873, to Miss Oella Robbins, a daughter of Randolph Robbins, an early settler of Mason county, Illinois, who located there in 1854, and later removed to Jacksonville. To Mr. and Mrs. Ohmart have been born eight children, five of whom are living, as follows: George R., Enid, Okla.; Mrs. Ida May Runion, El Dorado, Kans.; Albert R., Wichita; Charles E., Great Bend, Kans., and Myrtie E., at home. Mr. Ohmart is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, L. E. King Post, No. 105. He is one of the progressive business men of Augusta, and has built up an extensive business in his line.

Christian E. Ohmart, brother of George W., whose sketch appears on a preceding page of this volume, was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, in 1842. He received a common school education in the district schools of Logan county and spent his early life on the home farm. On November 21, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Fourth Illinois cavalry, when he was nineteen years old. He participated in many important battles, and skirmishes without number, as was the common lot of the average cavalryman in the Civil war. He was in the battles of Fort Donelson, Corinth, Shiloh and many others.

Mr. Ohmart was mustered out of service at Natchez, Miss., in 1864, and returned to Logan county, Illinois, where he remained until 1879. He then went to Camden county, Missouri, remaining there until 1909 when he came to Butler county. Mr. Ohmart learned the blacksmith's trade while in the army, and has made that his life work. He came to Butler county in 1909 and since that time has been associated with his brother, George W., a sketch of whom precedes this article.

Christian E. Ohmart was united in marriage in 1884, to Miss Frances Wooley, a native of Missouri, and they had four children, as follows: John, Augusta; Sarah, died at the age of two; Stephen, Augusta, and Frederick, died at the age of four.

**S. M. Etnire**, a Butler county pioneer, now deceased, was a native of Warren, Ind., born in 1841, a son of Jacob and Mary (Swingler) Etnire, natives of Pennsylvania, and of English descent. S. M. Etnire grew to manhood in his native State, and when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in Company F, Seventy-second regiment, Indiana infantry, at the age of twenty-one, and was promoted to corporal during his term of service. He participated in many of the important battles of the Civil war and a great many skirmishes, and was mustered out of service after the close of the war, at Indianapolis, Ind., August 6, 1865, after having served his country faithfully and well for a period of three years, during the most trying days of its history.

Mr. Etnire married Miss Isabelle Mahaffie at Williamsport, Ind., and in 1878, came to Butler county with his family, and bought

120 acres of land, four miles west of Augusta. Mrs. Etnire was a native of Ohio, and her parents were pioneers of Indiana, removing from Ohio to that State when she was five years old. After coming to Butler county, Mr. Etnire engaged in farming and stock raising, and was very successful. They left the farm and removed to Augusta in 1906, and at that time, owned 200 acres of land, besides a fine home in Augusta, which Mrs. Etnire still owns. To Mr. and Mrs. Etnire have been born the following children: Harry J., died in infancy; Effie L., died at the age of twenty years; Mrs. Gertrude L. Dill, died at the age of twenty-five years, leaving two children, Kenneth and Gail; Mrs. Ladessa Schock, Oxford, Mich.; Aetna E. Etnire, Mercedes, Tex.; Mrs. Grace Dill, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Bertha E. Chase, Frederick, Rice county, Kansas; Benjamin L., Augusta, Kans.; Quincey E., Augusta, Kans., and Maudene, resides at home with her mother.

The Etnire family experienced much of the pioneer life of Butler county, and while Mrs. Etnire has many recollections of the hardships that the pioneers endured, she also has a store of reminiscences of the amusing circumstances, and the little pleasures of frontier life which fully counterbalance the grief of the early days on the plains. When she first came here, she was considerably disappointed when all of her chickens died. That doesn't seem much of a loss, now, but it meant considerable to a pioneer family, who had no income in their little cabin on the plains, and who were confronted with the stern realities of living without anything to live upon. Another time she felt terribly grieved over the loss of some peach butter which she had laboriously prepared, and spilled through an accident. She looks back with much amusement on these little incidents of early life, which, at the time, she magnified to such an extent that they made lasting impressions on her mind.

Indians frequently visited the Etnire place, but never had any more lofty mission than begging or stealing, and Mrs. Etnire was never impressed with the high standard of the Indian character. She says that spring wagons were a rare luxury when they came here, and most everybody went to church, and most every other place, where they went, with a heavy lumber wagon, and only the select few had even spring seats. The Entires had a spring wagon when they first came here, but it was smashed up in a runaway, which would make it seem that the country had not yet reached the stage of civilization where it was safe for a spring wagon. But strange it may seem, Mrs. Entire has lived through the period in which spring wagons have come and almost gone, in Butler county, for they are so universally succeeded by the automobile, and are getting as scarce in this year of 1916, as they were back in the early seventies. Mrs. Etnire is one of the interesting old ladies, who belong to that faithful band of pioneer wives and mothers, whose coming to the great West to homes of an uncertain future, laid the foundation not only of Butler county, but of the West.

Mr. and Mrs. Etnire were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church from the first, and attended at the old stone church, built in 1875. Mrs. Etnire is still an active member.

**N. A. Yeager**, a leading member of the Butler county bar, who has been successfully engaged in the practice of law at Augusta since 1883, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Kosciusko county May 21, 1853, a son of Joel and Rebecca (Pray) Yeager, the former a native of Pocohontas county, Virginia, and the latter of New York City. They were the parents of the following children: V. C., an optometrist, Marion, Ind.; C. E., retired and living at Warsaw, Ind., and N. A., the subject of this sketch.

N. A. Yeager was educated in the public schools of Indiana, the Springfield Academy, South Whitley, Ind., and the Ohio Wesleyan University, graduating from the latter institution in 1878. He taught school for a time in Indiana and later served in the capacity of teller in a bank at North Manchester, Ind. He came to Kansas in 1881 and on May 1, of that year reached the State. It will be remembered that that was the day on which prohibition went into effect in Kansas. In July of that year, Mr. Yeager settled at Augusta, and opened a loan office with T. O. Shinn. He read law and was admitted to the bar in 1883, and he and Mr. Shinn practiced in partnership under the firm name of Shinn & Yeager until 1891, when Mr. Yeager took over the business.

Mr. Yeager has always had an extensive practice and during the first years of his practice here he carried on a general law business, but for the past fifteen years has devoted himself exclusively to the civil side of the courts, refusing to take any criminal business. In the conduct of his practice today it can be truthfully said that he represents more important interests than any other attorney in the county. He is a close student of the law, well posted in its intricacies, the possessor of a well balanced legal mind, and an able trial lawyer.

In addition to his extensive law practice, Mr. Yeager has figured conspicuously in the politics of Butler county for a number of years. He was a candidate for prosecuting attorney in 1890, and again in 1898, the first time on the Republican ticket and the second time on the Democratic ticket. He was defeated in 1898 by the narrow margin of thirteen votes. In 1900 he was a candidate for the State legislature on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated by a majority of sixty-five, and in 1908 he was a candidate for judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District and was defeated by a plurality of only eighteen votes. He carried the counties of Butler and Greenwood, carrying his own county by a majority of 162, but the other two counties, Chautauqua and Elk, turned the scales against him. He was postmaster at Augusta from 1884 to 1888 and served as mayor of Augusta one term. Mr. Yeager affiliated with the Republican organizations for a number of years, but in recent years has acted independently, politically, having cooperated with the Independent and Democratic parties, largely. He is fearless in his views on

politics, as well as other matters, and is equally unprejudiced, always giving the opposition credit for being honest and sincere.

**H. W. Wilson**, a prominent farmer and stockman and Civil war veteran, residing at Augusta, is a Butler county pioneer having been a resident of this county for forty-six years. Mr. Wilson is a native of New Hampshire, born near Fitzwilliam postoffice in 1842. He is a son of Joseph A. and Harriet (Stone) Wilson, both natives of New Hampshire. They were the parents of four children, two of whom are now living: H. W., whose name introduces this sketch, and George M., of Abrams, Wis.

H. W. spent his boyhood days in New England, and was educated in the public schools and the Lowell (Mass.) High School. He lived the uneventful life of the average young man of his times, until the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted as a member of Company F, Twelfth Wisconsin infantry. He was mustered into the United States service at Madison, Wis., and joined his regiment at Vicksburg, Miss., and from that time on saw much active and hazardous service. He was with Sherman on his famous march through Georgia and the Carolinas and participated in a number of engagements. He saw over two years' service and was promoted to corporal. He was at the grand review in Washington, D. C., in 1865. At the close of the war, and after receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to Wisconsin, where he had enlisted, and engaged in farming and lumbering.

In 1870, Mr. Wilson came to Butler county, Kansas, locating at Augusta. When he came to Butler county there were no railroads here, and he came from Manhattan to Augusta in company with a freighter who was driving across the plains with a load of flour. Mr. Wilson engaged in farming and stock raising, beginning on the raw, unbroken prairie, and met with the many hardships and discouraging features incident to early life in Kansas. He met with many crop failures and endured many hardships during the early years and the grasshopper scourge which was the common lot of the Kansas pioneer. However, the time came when Mr. Wilson's persistent efforts have been rewarded by success and he now owns over 800 acres of some of the best land in Butler county, and is one of the successful farmers and cattle men of this section of the State. He feeds cattle extensively and has met with unusual success in that field of endeavor.

When Mr. Wilson first came to Butler county he engaged in breaking prairie in the summer season and in the winter time followed logging, along the Whitewater and Walnut rivers. He has a vivid recollection of early events in Butler county and knew well most of the pioneers of the early days. One of his early acquaintances in Butler county was Rev. I. Mooney, to whom he sold a yoke of oxen in 1876. He recalls the days when buffalo meat was one of the staple articles of food among the early pioneers.

Mr. Wilson married Mary (Dix) Buck, a native of Greencastle, Ind.

She was a pioneer teacher of the county. Her parents were pioneer settlers of El Dorado township, Butler county, locating there in 1869. They settled on the west branch of the Walnut river a short distance north of El Dorado. The place is now known as the Peffley place. Her father, C. W. Dix, was a native of Indiana and her mother, Emily Nicholls, was a native of the same State. In 1877 the father removed to Oklahoma where he died. To Mr. and Mrs. Dix were born the following children: Minnie Atkins, resides in Oklahoma; Mrs. Fannie Morley, El Dorado, Kans.; Viola Coryell, resides in Oklahoma; Charles, whose address is unknown; Benjamin, who resides in Oklahoma, and Alvah, who was a member of the Twentieth Kansas regiment, and was killed in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American war.

Mr. Wilson is one of the well known and substantial farmers and stockmen of Butler county and has an extensive acquaintance and many friends throughout the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are parents of four children: Will L. Wilson, at home; Roy P. Wilson, Benton, Kans.; Chas. W., who died in 1910; Jean H., Detroit, Mich., and Carl F. Buck, a son born to Mrs. Wilson by a former marriage, is a manufacturer of Augusta, Kans.

**Harry Hammond**, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Augusta township, was born in Hancock county, Illinois, in 1869, and belongs to a Butler county pioneer family. He is a son of Isaac and Rebecca (Isenberger) Hammond, the former a native of England, and the latter of Ohio. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, as follows: Mrs. Jenny Valentine, Greeley, Colo.; Harry, the subject of this sketch; Sydney, Augusta township; Isaac, Augusta township; and Ray, Towanda township.

Isaac Hammond came to Butler county from Illinois in 1870 and preempted 160 acres of land in Towanda township, five miles north of Augusta. This was an early day in the settlement of this part of the State, and while Towanda township had some permanent settlers at that time they were few and far between. The Hammond family lived in a tent for the first few months on their claim, but built a small frame house before winter came on, hauling the lumber from Emporia. They gradually improved their claim and soon had a fairly well appointed farm for those early times. The father set out an orchard at an early day, and they soon had plenty of fruit, which was a rare luxury in those days. Isaac Hammond was industrious and thrifty, and became one of the successful and prosperous farmers and stockmen of Butler county. He bought more land from time to time in Towanda and Augusta townships, and at the time of his death, in September, 1909, he owned 1,080 acres of valuable land. He was a very extensive feeder and shipper of stock during his active career, and that branch of his business, perhaps, was the most profitable to him. His widow now resides in Augusta, and is in her seventy-first year.

Harry Hammond, whose name introduces this sketch, was only



nine months old, when his parents settled on the unbroken prairie of Butler county. He was reared on his father's farm, and, after receiving a good common school education, he continued farming. He now owns 200 acres of rich, productive land in Augusta township, and is one of the leading farmers of that section. He follows general farming and stock raising, and is quite extensively interested in raising Poland China hogs, and is also a chicken fancier, making a specialty of barred Plymouth Rocks and Rhode Island Reds.

Mr. Hammond was united in marriage, in 1890, to Miss Cora E. Viets, a daughter of J. F. and Lucy A. (Pitkin) Viets, natives of Illinois, who settled in Towanda township, Butler county, in 1888, and the parents now reside at Augusta. Mrs. Hammond was a Butler county teacher, prior to her marriage. To J. F. and Lucy A. (Pitkin) Viets were born the following children: Cora, Mrs. Harry Hammond, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Nellie M. McClure, Augusta; Byron, Augusta; Mrs. Lulu Wilson, El Dorado; Mrs. Zulu Price, Wichita; Frank, lives in Colorado; Mrs. Milla Pratt of Leavenworth, Kans., and Flavel, Augusta. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have three children, Myrl, resides at home; John Isaac, a senior in Kansas University, and Mildred, at home. Mr. Hammond is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and he and Mrs. Hammond are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and well known and prominent in the community.

**J. P. Rutherford**, a prominent Butler county farmer and stockman, is a native of Virginia. He was born in Augusta county near Staunton, Va., in 1854, and is a son of James W. and Susan (Pitman) Rutherford, the former a native of Frederick county, and the latter of Shenandoah county, and both descendants of old Virginia families. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living as follows: John, Mrs. Laura Keeler, and Minnie, all of whom reside in Clark county, Virginia, and Mrs. Jennie McIntyre, Wichita, Kans.; J. P., the subject of this sketch; William, farmer, Towanda township; Ashby, farmer, Spring township, and A. H., farmer, Douglass, Kans.

J. P. Rutherford received his education in the public schools of Virginia, and about the time he reached his majority, he went to Benton county, Indiana, where he remained four years. In 1876, he came to Butler county, Kansas, and located on a quarter section of section thirty-six, Towanda township. When he settled there, the place was raw, unbroken prairie. He engaged in farming and stock business, improved the place, and after living there twenty-five years, sold it, and in 1902 bought his present place of 273 acres in Augusta township, three miles northeast of Augusta. Here he has a well improved farm with a commodious and substantial residence and other farm buildings. He is extensively engaged in the stock business, and is a successful feeder. He is also one of the successful alfalfa raisers of Butler county, and has about 150 acres devoted to that crop.

Mr. Rutherford was married, in 1880, at El Dorado, Kans., to Miss

Izora Warner of Spring township, Butler county. Her parents were John and Filena (Bail) Warner, natives of Ohio, and pioneers of Butler county, who came here in 1866. To Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford have been born seven children, as follows: Fenton, lives at home; Reese, Oklahoma; Mrs. Daisy Carr, Augusta township; Jasper, Oklahoma; Mrs. Nora Collins, St. Louis, Mo.; Florence, and Charles, reside at home.

Mr. Rutherford has spent just forty years of his life in Butler county, and has seen many changes in that time. Butler county has been transformed from a barren waste to a populous and productive section, and has won a foremost place among the political subdivisions of the great State of Kansas, and the progress and development that has been made has not been brought about without persistent and patient toil on the part of such men as J. P. Rutherford.

**S. Y. Curry**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Walnut township, belongs to a pioneer Butler county family. He was born in Bradley county, Tennessee, and is a son of William H. and Lydia C. (Simmons) Curry, who settled in Walnut township in 1879. William H. Curry, the father, was prominent in the early day affairs of Walnut township and Butler county. He was born in Bradley county, Tennessee, in 1841, and was engaged in farming in his native State in early life. He also served as clerk of the circuit court there, prior to coming to Kansas, and in 1888 he was elected clerk of the District Court of Butler county. Before being elected to that office, he had held a number of township offices, having been trustee of Walnut township two terms, and he was a member of the school board for nine years. After the expiration of his term of office as clerk of the District Court, he continued to reside in El Dorado until 1895, when he returned to his farm in Walnut township, and continued farming and stock raising, in which he was very successful. He died, October 20, 1915. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Augusta, and his son, S. Y., is a member of the same Lodge, and also of the Modern Woodman of America.

S. Y. Curry, the subject of this sketch, is one of a family of six children, born to William H. and Lydia C. (Simmons) Curry, four of whom are living, as follows: Isaac, Kansas City, Mo.; S. Y., the subject of this sketch; John, and Mrs. Nancy Sipe. S. Y. continues the farm and stock business which was founded by his father, and is one of the successful feeders of Butler county, usually preparing for market about four car loads of cattle each year. The Currys were among the first to successfully grow alfalfa in this county, and now have about one hundred acres devoted to this crop. In addition to the value of the surfaces of the Curry farm, it is located in the rich and rapidly developing oil and gas field of Augusta, and is in close proximity to some of the best producing wells brought in in that locality. The Curry farm adjoins the Varner place which has been tested with such a good show of oil production. The Curry farm is leased to the Wichita Natural Gas Company and has two good wells and they are drilling another. The Curry place is well

W. H. AND LYDIA C. CURRY



improved, with a good residence, and a large new barn which was erected about four years ago.

When the Curry family settled in Walnut township, most of the land was homesteaded and a small cabin generally stood on each place. The old stage coach still made its regular trips by their place, the railroad not having been built south of El Dorado at that time. There were a great many settlers from Tennessee along the Walnut river in the locality where the Currys settled, and a portion of the valley in that vicinity was known as Tennessee Bend.

**John W. Moyle.**—It is a conceded fact that we are now living in an age of successful organized effort, and it is not a difficult matter for the casual observer to determine the various towns where progressive harmony, organization and cooperation are found among its business men and leading citizens. Augusta is preeminently one of the towns which in recent years has shown great commercial activity and municipal improvement, and it is not an exaggeration to say that this condition has been brought about in a large measure through well directed efforts of the local Commercial Club and, as secretary of that organization, John W. Moyle is entitled to no small degree of credit for the many results that have been accomplished. Mr. Moyle has also taken an active part in the commercial life and industrial development of Augusta.

John W. Moyle was born in Augusta, Kans., and is a son of Henry Moyle, a native of Cornwall, England, born in 1845. Henry Moyle's father was the American manager for the London Development Company, a company which was heavy investors in American land and mining interests. He was drowned at Gold Hill, N. C., in 1857, and at the time the incident was given considerable publicity by the press throughout the country, an extensive article appearing in Harper's magazine with a portrait of the victim of the accident. His wife also died in North Carolina.

Henry Moyle served in the confederate army during the Civil war, being one of the first to enlist under the colors of the lost cause, and took part in the battle of Big Bethel which was among the first engagements of the Civil war. He is now a member of the Confederate Veterans' Association of Wichita, which is the only organization of its kind in the State of Kansas. At the close of the Civil war, Henry Moyle went to Omaha, Neb., where he secured employment on the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad and was engaged in that work until the golden spike was driven near Ogden, Utah, which marked the connection of the eastern and western divisions of that, the first trans-continental railroad. Shortly afterwards Mr. Moyle came to Kansas and on May 20, 1869, homesteaded 160 acres of land in Augusta township about four miles northeast of Augusta. In 1873 he and Ed Boyle engaged in the hardware business at Augusta under the firm name of Boyle & Moyle. A few years later this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Moyle engaged in the grocery business which he successfully conducted until

February, 1913, when he retired from active business after a commercial career marked with unusual success. He is one of the pioneer merchants of Augusta and during the course of his long years of business activity built up a reputation for honesty and square dealing which made for him many friends as well as customers.

Henry Moyle was united in marriage at Augusta in 1873 with Miss Josephine Sanders, of Augusta, and the following children were born to this union: Mrs. Grace V. Skaer, Augusta; John W., whose name introduces this sketch; Mathew T., Augusta; Mrs. Beulah Alexander, Burburnett, Tex.; William H., Augusta, and Fannie A., Augusta. Jacob Moyle died at the age of two years; Frank Moyle died at the age of one year.

John W. Moyle attended the Augusta schools and was graduated from the Augusta High School; he then entered the Salina Normal University where he was graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts. He then returned to Augusta and shortly afterwards went to Oklahoma when that territory was opened to settlement and homesteaded 160 acres of land, which he still owns. He then returned to Augusta and since that time has been active in the development of his native town.

He has always had faith in the natural resources and future greatness of Augusta. He is an optimist but not of the optimistic type that sits down, and hopes for something to happen. Since he had become associated with the Commercial Club of Augusta, many enterprises have been brought about by the cooperation of that organization in the way of public utilities. Augusta has been given a good water system, natural gas and an electric light plant, a complete sewer system, and through the efforts of that body one of the extensive glass factories of the country has been located at Augusta, and the impetus given to the industrial life of the city by the recent developments of oil and gas is equalled by few cities in the country today. Mr. Moyle is an active factor in the development of the Augusta oil fields in an individual way, and is the dominant factor of the Moyle Oil and Gas Company, which has eleven producing gas wells.

**John R. Myers**, deceased, was an early pioneer of the West, and made an unusual success of stock raising and farming in Butler county. He was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1834, and was the last survivor of six children born to Peter and Catherine (Byerly) Myers, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Maryland. He died at Augusta, Kans., January 19, 1916, and is buried in Elmwood cemetery, Augusta, Kans. John Myers received his early education in the common schools of his native State, and remained at home until he reached his majority. In 1855, he went to Iowa, locating near Massillon, Cedar county. This was an early day in that section of Iowa, and Mr. Myers experienced much Iowa pioneer life. He was engaged in farming there for twenty-six years, and in 1881, came to Butler county,

and located on section 3, range 4, township 28, where he bought 640 acres of land, which his heirs still own. This is mostly good bottom land, located just below the confluence of the Walnut and Whitewater rivers. Here he followed stock raising and general farming, and became one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of Butler county. He made substantial improvements on his place in the way of buildings, fencing, etc. He put out a big orchard, and was one of the extensive alfalfa growers of the county, having over a hundred acres of that crop. In 1908 he removed to Augusta where he resided until his death.

Mr. Myers was united in marriage, May 4, 1862, to Miss Clara McLeod of Cedar county, Iowa. She was a daughter of J. R. McLeod, a native of Philadelphia, Pa., who removed from Philadelphia to Delaware county, Ohio, and in 1855, went to Iowa, settling in Cedar county. To Mr. and Mrs. Myers have been born five children: C. L., a conductor on the Missouri Pacific railroad, and resides in Wichita; Hunter G., was a railroad postal clerk on the Rock Island railroad, and was killed in an accident at Caldwell, Kans., in 1903, a runaway engine colliding with his train; Howard U., a railway mail clerk between Blackwell, Okla., and Hutchinson, Kans., residing at the latter city; George E., a manual training teacher, New York City. He is a graduate of the Augusta high school and of the Ottawa University, class of 1896. After graduating, he taught in Bacon University of Oklahoma for two years, and then took a two years' course in the University of Chicago. He then went to Colorado Springs and, after teaching for a time, entered Clark University at Worcester, Mass., where he was graduated. He then accepted the principalship of the McKinley Manual Training School, and after holding that position for five years, took charge of the Pittsburg Manual Training School, Pittsburg, Kans., and after an extended tour in Europe, accepted the superintendency of the manual training department of Columbia College, New York City. The youngest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers is McLeod, who is a successful farmer of Walnut township.

Mr. Myers was one of Butler county's most substantial citizens, who, by industry and foresight, accumulated a competence, and won a high place in the estimation of his fellow citizens, who knew him best. He was a member of the Baptist church for over sixty-three years, and took an active interest in all Christian work.

**John W. Guthrie**, of Augusta, Kans., is a Kansas pioneer who has spent forty-six years of his life within the borders of Butler county, and is entitled to no small amount of credit for the part that he has played in making Butler one of the leading counties of the great State of Kansas. Mr. Guthrie is a native of Kentucky, born in 1848, a son of R. H. and Elizabeth (Stewart) Guthrie, both natives of Kentucky. The father died in his native State at the age of ninety and his wife died in that State in December, 1915, at the age of ninety-four. They were the parents of eleven children, as follows: William H., deceased; George S., de-

ceased; John W., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, died in infancy; R. H. lives at Honey Grove, Tex.; J. T., deceased; O. W., living in Kentucky; S. L., Danville, Ky.; Mrs. Lee Carpenter, lives in Kentucky; Rolie and M. W., both living in Kentucky.

John W. Guthrie was reared to manhood in his native State and educated in the public schools. He was a boy during the Civil war and has many recollections of incidents which took place in the vicinity of his home at times when the Union and Confederate troops were foraging and fighting in that neighborhood. One event that made a lasting impression on his mind, was a skirmish that took place in the vicinity of his old school ground. The Confederate soldiers occupied the school building, and in attacking their position, the Union soldiers fired a cannon ball through the old temple of learning, which impressed young Guthrie in a way that he never forgot.

At the age of eighteen Mr. Guthrie began life for himself as a farmer near Perryville, Ky., and a year later went to Missouri, but after one year returned to Kentucky and in 1870 came to Kansas. He first settled on the Little Walnut in Bloomington township, Butler county, where he bought 160 acres of land at \$10.00 per acre, and also filed on a quarter section in that locality. In 1903, he sold this property and removed to Augusta, buying sixty-four acres adjoining the town, and later bought forty acres more near Augusta.

Mr. Guthrie experienced all phases of pioneer life in Butler county, as this section was almost in its primitive state when he came here, in 1870. There was some settlement in this section, a few years prior to that time, but there were no substantial improvements, and settlers were few and far between. The land upon which he settled was unbroken and unimproved, but in a short time he made material progress, and it was not long until he had a well improved and productive farm with bearing fruit trees and substantial and well appointed dwelling and other farm buildings. His farm was well equipped with hedge fence which was the popular fence in the pioneer days, before the advent of the wire fence. Mr. Guthrie carried on farming on an extensive scale, both as a grain raiser and stockman, and met with well merited success, and is today one of Butler county's substantial citizens who has made good.

Mr. Guthrie was united in marriage in 1869 at Perryville, Ky., to Miss Nancy J. Hope, a daughter of Richard Hope of Kentucky. The Hopes belonged to a pioneer Kentucky family. To Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie have been born two children, one of whom died in infancy, and Mayme Lee, who married James B. Bourgett and is now deceased.

Few of the old settlers who were active in the development of that section of Butler county, along the Little Walnut are now living. Among the many who were identified with that section in the early seventies, Mr. Guthrie is unable to recall but two, Mr. Wirth and Mr. Snodgrass, who are still living. Many changes have taken place in the

political geography of Butler county since Mr. Guthrie first beheld the waving blue stem of the Little Walnut valley. The towns of Leon, Whitewater, Potwin were not even contemplated, and Augusta at that time was a mere trading post.

Besides his farming interests Mr. Guthrie is identified with the interests of Augusta in many ways. He is a director of the First National Bank of Augusta, and has been associated with that institution since its organization.

**James Bruce Bourgett**, of Augusta, Kans., has been identified with newspaper work in southern Kansas for a number of years. Mr. Bourgett is a native of Indiana, born in Bartholomew county, in 1865. He is a son of Jacob B. and Anna M. (Thomas) Bourgett, natives of Ohio. Jacob B. Bourgett was left an orphan at an early age, his parents both dying of cholera at Cincinnati, Ohio, in the forties. Jacob was reared by an aunt, Anna Schive, who brought him to Indiana, where he grew to manhood and died in 1870. James Bruce Bourgett was one of a family of three children, as follows: Ella R. Dougherty, Hollywood, Cal.; Ida, died at Greenfield, Ind., at the age of nine, and James B., whose name introduces this sketch.

James B. Bourgett received his education in the public schools of Greenfield, Ind., where in early life he acquired an ambition for newspaper work. He served an apprenticeship at the printer's trade on the "Hartford City News," his uncle, John M. Ruckman, being the publisher of that paper. In 1887, Mr. Bourgett came to Kansas, locating at Wichita, where he was employed by the Wichita "Eagle" and other papers, and later accepted a position in the Wichita postoffice as mailing clerk. Later, he came to Augusta, and for several years, was local editor of the Augusta "Gazette."

Mr. Bourgett was married October 14, 1896, to Miss Mayme Lee Guthrie, a daughter of John W. Guthrie, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. Mrs. Bourgett died in 1906. To Mr. and Mrs. Bourgett were born three children, as follows: Ernestine, resides at home at Augusta, and is a student in the high school; Ruth Hope, died in infancy, and John, attending the graded school.

Mr. Bourgett is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and Anti-Horse Thief Association.

**J. C. Robison**, owner and proprietor of the "Whitewater Stock Farm," is a breeder of Percheron horses, and his reputation as such extends far beyond the borders of Butler county. In fact, Mr. Robison is a national figure in this important industry. He is a son of J. W. and Sarah (Woodrow) Robison. J. W. Robison, the father, who was the founder of this great Percheron horse business on the Whitewater, was a native of Scotland, and came to this country with his parents, James and Isabell (Leslie) Robertson. The original spelling of the name was Robertson, but through an error in the land office at Washington, it was recorded Robison, and rather than go into detailed cor-



responsibility in correcting this spelling, James Robison accepted the change and other members of the family have followed that form of spelling the name.

The Robison family, upon coming to America, located in Tazewell county, Illinois, and since that time members of the family have been prominent as stockmen and breeders. Sarah Woodrow, mother of J. C. Robison, was a daughter of Hugh Woodrow, a pioneer of Tazewell county, Illinois, and one of the first settlers in that county. J. W. and Sarah (Woodrow) Robison were the parents of nine children, three of whom died in infancy, and those who lived to maturity are as follows: Elmer C., born February 12, 1864, married Ida Fulton, December 26, 1889, and died September 10, 1895, and his widow now resides in El Dorado, and has two children, Helen and Sarah; Leslie W., the largest cattle feeder and shipper in Butler county, married Ida Chain, and they are the parents of two children, Chain and Louise; Edgar, born August 29, 1867, married Dona Fertich, of Covington, Ind., and died December 14, 1903, leaving one son, James F., born August 9, 1897; Frank L., born December 4, 1869, unmarried and resides at Towanda, Kans.; James C., the subject of this sketch, born July 24, 1872, and Fred G., born March 2, 1874, is unmarried, and resides at Towanda, Kans.

James C. Robison was united in marriage, February 2, 1897, to Miss Bertha Ellet, and they are the parents of the following children: William Ellet, born November 9, 1897; Amy, born March 19, 1900, and died August 3, 1900; Ruberta Ruth, born June 27, 1902; Alfred E., born May 13, 1906, and James C., Jr.

J. W. Robison, the father, bought 1,280 acres of land in Butler county, in 1879, and in 1884, brought his family here from Illinois. In 1884, the first investments in Percherons were made, and since that time, the business has been gradually and substantially extended, and the character of the stock improved until, at the present time, it is rated, by those who should know, as one of the leading Percheron breeding establishments in America, and during the lifetime of the father, the firm was known as J. W. & J. C. Robison. "Whitewater Falls Farm," proper, now comprises 1,920 acres, devoted chiefly to the Percherons, and more or less extensive cattle breeding operations. Eight hundred acres of the bottom lands produce alfalfa, and doubtless much of the success in the development of the Percherons is due to the limestone grasses and the alfalfa, nature's great conditioner.

Five imported stallions have successfully headed the stud. The first, Norval, half brother to the famous Brilliant, was used for ten years. Social, a son of Sultan, was in service eight years in this stud. Laschine, a French gold medal winner, died after two years' service, and Fantome was used a similar period, followed by Casino, the greatest of them all, and the head of the stud for the past thirteen years. Since the foundation of this stud, 3,000 registered Percherons have been sold from the farm, and the present stock numbers approximately 200 head.

Prizes have been awarded the Robison Percherons at the World's Fair, International, American Royal, at the State fairs of Illinois, Missouri, Virginia, Indiana, Kansas, Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma and in far-away Canada. At the World's Fair at St. Louis, the Robison Percherons won more prizes than the exhibit of any other Percheron breeder, and their show entries were, all but two, foaled at "Whitewater Falls Farm." The experimental stations of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Illinois, Washington, Missouri and Arkansas have all drawn upon the Whitewater Falls stock for mares, a recognition of the superiority of this stud.

As a suggestion of the confidence of the horse breeders of America, buyers of Robison Percherons represent Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia and old Mexico. The private demand has annually absorbed a large number, the majority, in fact, of the surplus stock, but it is in the records of the public sales that the most decisive evidence of public confidence appears. Twenty-one public sales have thus far been made from this farm.

The horses have sold on their merits to an intelligent class of buyers, representing a wide territory, and it is to the credit of the Robison methods that buyers have returned year after year and renewed their business relations. Mr. Robison also deals extensively in registered and high grade Holstein cattle. Usually a herd of two hundred head is kept on hand. A recent acquisition to the herd was the purchase of a carload of registered females and a new herd sire from New York, a son of the \$50,000 King Segis Pontiac Alcartra, costing \$1,000.

And to whom is this successful accomplishment due? To the intelligent and persevering effort of "Jim" Robison, who, for more than a decade, has been the active force, and is now the sole owner of the "Whitewater Falls Farm" and stud. He has builded on a broad basis, and his handiwork has won the favorable recognition of the best informed in his line wherever Percherons are grown in numbers in America. The business has grown to such proportions that the improvements of the farm have of necessity been enlarged from year to year, with the latest addition of a \$9,000 horse barn, which is one of the best arranged and most complete barns in the country.

The Whitewater is a beautiful stream bordered by a generous growth of elm, walnut, hackberry and sycamore. Located conveniently near to the farm home, is a delightful waterfall that runs its course by day and by night as the years pass. It is from this beautiful fall that the farm takes its name. The environment is one of fascinating interest to the visitor. As the shadows forecast the closing day, the activities subside. The Percherons gather contentedly about the feed racks. The parting kiss of the sinking sun is printed in subdued colors on the tree tops. You enter the home, a home that is capacious, but not luxur-

ious, inviting but not superb, in which abides the spirit of comfort and cheerfulness. Unconsciously you draw your chair to the broad fireplace, and the dancing flames shed a welcome warmth. On the library wall hangs a wonderful study in oil of a group of Percherons with Casino in playful pose in the foreground. A generous collection of trophies tells the story of numerous show ring conquests. Without, the duties of the day are done and twilight gently draws its veil of mystery. The fire on the hearth burns low, and the ceaseless song of the waterfall lends enchantment to the hour.

**F. W. Robison**, cashier of the Towanda State Bank, is one of the younger members of the banking fraternity of Butler county, whose ability as a financier has won for him just recognition in the banking world. Mr. Robison was born at Pekin, Ill., and is a son of Archie L. and Lida (Richmond) Robison, both natives of Illinois. Archie L. Robison was a son of Frank Robison, a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, who first settled in Ohio upon coming to this country. From Ohio he went to Illinois at a very early date, walking the entire distance and settled in Tazewell county, Illinois, and was an early settler in that section.

Archie L. and Lida (Richmond) Robison were married at Delavan, Tazewell county, Illinois, and the following children were born to this union: F. W., the subject of this sketch; Archie L., of Pekin, Ill., who is one of the leading importers and breeders of Percheron horses of the country, and also a very extensive importer and breeder of short horn cattle; Richmond, a prominent farmer and stockman of Delavan, Ill.; Don, a member of the firm of A. L. Robison & Sons, importers and breeders; James L., a member of the firm of A. L. Robison & Sons; Leslie, also a member of A. L. Robison & Sons, and Mary. All the boys attended the Illinois Agricultural College, Champaign, Ill.

F. W. Robison was educated in the high school at Tremont, Ill., where he graduated and afterward completed a course in the Illinois State University at Champaign, where he specialized in agriculture. He then took a business course and after that spent three years in the importing and breeding business in Illinois.

In 1907 Mr. Robison came to Towanda, Kans. and invested in the Towanda State Bank, becoming its cashier, and has held that position to the present time. This bank was originated in 1906 and began business in July of that year. It is one of the substantial institutions of the county and has had a substantial and constantly increasing business since its doors were opened to the public. The bank was organized with a paid up capital of \$10,000.00 and has an earned surplus of \$10,000.00. The present officers of the bank are: J. C. Kullman, president; A. C. Higgins, vice president; F. W. Robison, secretary and cashier, and its directorate consists of the above named gentlemen and E. A. Shriver and J. C. Robison.

F. W. Robison was united in marriage October 28, 1908, with Leila

M. Harris, of El Dorado, a daughter of C. L. Harris, a prominent attorney of that place and former State senator. Mrs. Robison is a graduate of the El Dorado High School, and also studied language and music at Mannheim, Germany, and later was a student at Monticello Seminary, Godfrey, Ill.

In addition to his interest in the field of banking Mr. Robison is a member of the firm of Girod & Robison, importers and breeders of pure bred and high grade Holstein cattle. Their place is well equipped and especially adapted for their purposes and they usually have on hand about 200 head of cattle.

Since coming to Towanda Mr. Robison has identified himself with the interests of his adopted town and takes a leading part in any movement the object of which is for the betterment of the community, and is one of the progressive young men of Butler county. Mr. Robison owns eighty acres, the south one-half of N. E. quarter section 36, adjoining section 31, on which is located the Wrightman & Foster oil field, and it is in the heart of the oil field, a deep well having been brought in recently, just east of his land, another northeast and a shallow well on the northwest. Mr. Robison bought this land since the oil development began, and it will no doubt be a very profitable investment.

**W. G. Turner**, of Towanda, came to Butler county when a boy, just past thirteen years of age, and since attaining his majority has been a conspicuous figure in the public life of his adopted county. His fellow citizens have given expression to their confidence in his ability and integrity by electing him twice to the office of sheriff of Butler county, and also electing him to the legislature.

Mr. Turner is a native of Illinois and was born in Shelby county in 1861. He is a son of John and Agnes (Elwood) Turner, both natives of England. They were the parents of seven children, one of whom died in infancy, and the others are as follows: Mrs. Elizabeth Noble, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Hanna Priest, deceased; Thomas E., Wichita; Mrs. Belle Miller, Wichita; Mrs. Jane Agnes Mooney, Towanda, and W. G., the subject of this sketch.

W. G. Turner was reared in Shelby county, Illinois, to the age of thirteen years, where he attended the public school. In 1875 the Turner family came to Kansas and located in Butler county, one mile west of Towanda, where the father followed farming until his death in 1883 and his wife died at Wichita while there on a visit, a few years later. They are both buried in the Towanda cemetery. When a young man W. G. Turner engaged in farming which he followed for a number of years, and still owns one of the productive and well kept farms of Towanda township which consists of 200 acres of valuable land.

In 1897 Mr. Turner was elected sheriff of Butler county and performed the duties of that office in such a satisfactory manner that at the expiration of his term of office of two years, he was re-elected to succeed himself and on account of a change in the law he held the office of sher-

iff for an additional year, making five years in all. During Mr. Turner's administration of the office of sheriff the famous Jessie Morrison case was tried three times. This case not only attracted attention in Kansas but was given considerable notice by the press throughout the United States. In 1905, Mr. Turner was elected a member of the legislature on the Democratic ticket and won for himself a very creditable record as a member of the lower house of the Kansas legislature. His friends insisted that he be a candidate for re-election and he permitted his name to remain on the ticket but made no canvass nor effort for re-election, and succeeded in escaping the office by the narrow margin of twenty-seven votes. In 1914 he was the Democratic candidate for sheriff of Butler county but was defeated. He is now manager of a store at Towanda.

Mr. Turner was married in 1886 to Miss Amanda Vandebogart, of Towanda. She is a daughter of Michael and Lydia Vandebogart, early settlers of Butler county who came here from Michigan in 1871, settling in Towanda township about three miles northeast of town. They were natives of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Turner have been born two children: Thomas A., who occupies the home place a half mile east of Towanda, married Blanche Gorman, and they have one child, Harriet Irene; and Lydia, married H. S. Wait, proprietor of the Towanda Drug Store. Mr. Turner is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, all of Towanda. In the course of his career as a public official, Mr. Turner has acquired a large acquaintance and many friends throughout Butler county and perhaps is one of the best known men of the county.

**Albert Pyle**, owner and operator of the electric light system at Towanda, Kans., has been identified with Butler county for over forty-five years. Mr. Pyle was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1848, and is a son of Harrison and Marie (Horton) Pyle, natives of Ohio. Albert Pyle was reared to manhood in his native State and educated in the public schools. In 1868 he went to Illinois and settled in McLean county, where he was engaged in farming for three years and in 1871 came to Kansas, settling in Rosalia township, Butler county, where he homesteaded a quarter section of land. Later he sold that place and bought another one three miles farther south on the Little Walnut river. Here he was engaged in the stock business on his 440 acre farm for a number of years when he sold it and settled on a place in Towanda township where he followed farming and stock raising until 1913 when he removed to Towanda.

In 1912 Mr. Pyle secured a franchise for lighting the city of Towanda and installed an arc light system at a cost of approximately \$4,000, and thus gave Towanda its first electric light. The venture did not prove profitable at first but Mr. Pyle was not discouraged and has been rewarded in recent years by very satisfactory and profitable results. He has considerable other interests in Towanda and vicinity in addition to his electric light plant investment. In 1911 he erected three

store buildings on Main street which are now fully occupied by business enterprises and form an important part of the business district of the town.

Mr. Pyle was united in marriage at Chillicothe, Ohio, to Miss Johanna Piper, a daughter of M. M. Piper, a pioneer of Ross county, Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Pyle have been born six children, as follows: Lewis, farmer, near Towanda, Kans.; B. C., butcher, Towanda; W. H., a prominent stockman, Weston, Neb.; Mrs. B. F. McComas, Jackson county, Missouri; Mrs. Nellie Ralston, of Towanda township, and Mrs. Ollie Logan, of Towanda, whose husband, an engineer and electrician, is manager of the Towanda Electric Lighting Plant, for Mr. Pyle.

Mr. Pyle has seen many changes in Butler county, since he and a brother came here in 1871. They had no capital but came to a new and undeveloped country with the determination to succeed and notwithstanding that they encountered many discouraging features incident to early life in Kansas, Mr. Pyle has gone on and succeeded beyond his expectations and today is one of the substantial men of his community and one of the leading industrial factors of Towanda.

**G. E. Garrison**, a well known grain dealer of Towanda, Kans., is a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, and is a son of John A. and Mary (Jones) Garrison, both natives of Virginia, who were the parents of three children, as follows: John, resides in New Mexico; Mrs. Ella Brown, Arkansas, and G. E., the subject of this sketch. When G. E. Garrison was two years old his parents removed to West Virginia, where the father died in 1865. The mother afterwards married M. N. Josephs and they became the parents of six children, as follows: Mrs. Orma Ullum, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Ida Ashenfelter (deceased); Abram S., Potwin, Kans.; Frank, Furley, Kans.; Rolla, Potwin, Kans., and Mrs. Maud Rolf, Potwin, Kans.

When G. E. Garrison was thirteen years old he came to Kansas with his step-father and mother, who resided for a time at Topeka. This was in 1871, and about one year later they removed to Osage county, locating near Carbondale. Here they resided for three years, and in 1876 came to Butler county and settled on a farm on the Whitewater, near the old town of Plum Grove. They purchased a farm of 160 acres for \$3 per acre. G. E. remained at home on the farm until 1895, when he engaged in farming on his own account for a short time and then went to Potwin and engaged in the feed, grain and creamery business. Seven years later he sold his business at Potwin and engaged in the feed and grain business at Towanda, where he has built up an extensive grain and feed business and also deals in coal. He handles large quantities of kafir corn, wheat and oats. He has a grain elevator with a capacity of 7,000 bushels, and at the present time is adding 3,000 bushels to its capacity.

As a grain producer and dealer, Mr. Garrison has met with a variety of experiences in conforming with the inevitable whims of Kansas sea-

sons. For instance, in 1912 he shipped out of Towanda fifty-two car loads of kafir corn, and the following year, which was a dry season, he shipped forty-two car loads of corn into Towanda, which he sold for local consumption. Between the bad years of the early days he can recall some productive ones which were as extremely good as others were bad. In 1875 he paid \$2.75 for seed corn, which he had shipped from Iowa for his own use, and he produced from that seed corn one of the finest crops within the history of his recollection, which averaged about ninety bushels per acre. Mr. Garrison relates many interesting incidents of early life on the plains and recalls many of the old pioneers who resided in his neighborhood when he came to Butler county, among whom might be mentioned John Wentworth, Joseph Adams, Chris Jacobs, Joseph Fornie, Mr. Schutz, Mr. McGill, Mr. McSnorf and William Brennan.

Mr. Garrison was married in 1897 to Miss Minnie Horton, of Towanda, and two children have been born to this union: Otis Horton and Amylee, both students in the Towanda schools.

**M. E. Varner**, a successful farmer and stockman, of Towanda township, is a native of Iowa. Mr. Varner was born in 1866, and is a son of I. D. and Ruth (Baker) Varner, both natives of Monroe county, Ohio. The mother died at Towanda in 1910 and the father has been an invalid for the past two years. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Mary Winkler, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Susan Steel, Wichita, Kans.; M. E., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Emma Lamb, of El Dorado, twins; Mrs. Dulcie Cook, Clark county, Kansas; E. A., Fairview township, and F. H., Clifford township.

The Varner family were pioneers of Butler county, coming here in 1871, and located in Towanda township. The father homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 12, township 25, range 4. Their claim was located on the open prairie, and settlers came in quite rapidly about that time, as it was about the beginning of the rapid settlement of that section. The country was still in a wild and primitive state and M. E. Varner, who was a boy about five years of age at that time, remembers of seeing deer and antelope in the vicinity of the early Varner home. The buffalo, however, had taken up his grazing ground further west, across the Arkansas. Although a boy, Mr. Varner remembers many instances of early life on the plains. About the year that they came to Butler county he recalls an experience with a prairie fire. His father was some distance from home, working with his ox team on a place which he had rented on the west branch of the Walnut, and one of the periodical early day prairie fires was sweeping across the plains, carried forward by a strong southern wind. The father escaped the flames with his oxen by starting what was called a "back fire" and burning the grass in his immediate vicinity, which afforded a place of safety for himself and oxen by the time that the prairie fire approached.

M. E. Varner has made farming and stock raising the principal busi-

ness of his life, giving special attention to the raising and feeding of cattle. He raises large quantities of corn and alfalfa, which he generally feeds to his own cattle. Mr. Varner was married to Miss Cora Washburn, of Fairview township. Her parents came from Ohio and settled in this county in the eighties. To Mr. and Mrs. Varner have been born three children, all of whom are at home: Florence, Grant W. and Wilma. Mr. Varner is a substantial citizen and bears the distinction of being one of the youngest old pioneers of Butler county. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 163, Towanda, Kans.

**E. A. Shriver**, a successful hardware dealer at Towanda, Kans., is a native son of Butler county, having been born in Towanda township in 1873. He is a son of Joshua Shriver, a Butler county pioneer, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. E. A. Shriver was reared on a farm in Towanda township and attended school at district No. 37 and the Towanda High School. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-four years old, when he began clerking in the hardware store of Patterson Brothers at El Dorado and remained with that firm for six years. In 1904 he engaged in the hardware business in partnership with A. J. Glass at Towanda, under the firm name of Shriver & Glass. This concern had a successful business from the start and each year has shown an increase of patronage and they now have one of the extensive hardware stores of Butler county. They carry a complete line of hardware, paints, wire and farm implements, including the McCormick harvesting machinery. The reliability of this firm and their straightforward method of doing business has won the confidence and patronage of hundreds of satisfied customers in Towanda and vicinity.

Mr. Shriver was united in marriage in 1898 to Miss Olive Glass, a daughter of James Glass, a native of Indiana, who settled in Butler county in the eighties. He died at Towanda in 1908 and his remains were buried in the El Dorado cemetery. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Olive Wood, was also a native of Indiana, and died in Butler county in 1895. To Mr. and Mrs. Shriver have been born four children, as follows: James, who died at the age of two years; Josephine, Harry and Garner.

Mr. Shriver is a keen and progressive business man and takes an active interest in all matters tending for the civic or commercial betterment of Towanda and Butler county. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is also fraternally identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Fraternal Citizens.

**Joshua Shriver**, of Towanda, Kans., is a veteran of the Civil war and a Kansas pioneer who has spent over forty-five years of his life in Butler county. He was born at Elkhart, Ind., in 1841, and is a son of Daniel and Lavina (Nuzum) Shriver, both natives of Virginia, who removed to Indiana at an early date. The following children were born



to Daniel and Lavina (Nuzum) Shriver: Joshua, the subject of this sketch; William, Elkhart, Ind.; Rufus, Elkhart, Ind.; Frank, Peabody, Kans.; Anne (deceased); Mrs. Matilda Hoover, Peabody, Kans.; Mrs. Phoebe Lambert, Goshen, Ind.; John (deceased), and Noah (deceased).

Joshua Shriver spent his boyhood days in his native State and was educated in the public schools of Elkhart. About the time he reached his majority he enlisted at Elkhart, Ind., in Company E, Seventy-fourth Indiana infantry, serving from 1862 until June, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Indianapolis on account of the close of the war, after having served about three years. His career as a soldier was an active one and he participated in many important battles of that great struggle, as well as a number of lesser engagements and minor skirmishes. He was at the battle of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta campaign. He was at the battle of Jonesboro, and the constant series of engagements on Sherman's march, beginning with the battle of Resaca, and when the war closed he was at Goldsborough, N. C. While Mr. Shriver's military career was an unusually hazardous one, he escaped without an injury and never spent a day in a hospital.

At the close of the war Mr. Shriver returned to Goshen, Ind., where he was engaged in farming for about six years, and in 1871 came to Kansas, locating in Towanda township, Butler county, about one and a half miles east of Towanda. Here he homesteaded 160 acres and engaged in farming. He broke the prairie and converted his place into one of the productive farms of Butler county, and was engaged in farming and stock raising until 1913, when he removed to Towanda, where he is now living in retirement. Mr. Shriver has well earned the title of pioneer and is one of the men who had faith in the future of Kansas during its days of uncertainty, and in recording the story of these men, a work of this character is fulfilling its most important function.

Mr. Shriver was married in 1868 to Miss Nannie McGuffin, of Goshen, Ind. She was a daughter of James McGuffin and Sarah (Stuart) McGuffin, natives of Indiana and of Scotch descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Shriver have been born the following children: Charles, Leon, Kans.; John, Pine Bluff, Ark.; E. A., hardware merchant, Towanda, Kans., a sketch of whom appears in this volume; Fred G., Towanda, Kans.; James, farming the home place in Towanda township; Mrs. Ella Oten, McPherson, Kans.; Mrs. Bertha Stewart, Benton, Kans., and Mrs. Nellie Bishop, Amarilla, Tex.

Mr. Shriver has been in poor health for the last few years, having been afflicted with partial paralysis since 1912. However, his mind is as clear as ever, and his recollection of the pioneer days in Butler county is most vivid, and he tells in an interesting and entertaining way the many adventures and experiences of the early day pioneers who laid the foundation of Butler county, as one of the foremost political subdivisions of the Kansas of today and the future.

**Matsy Braley**, an extensive contractor and builder, of Towanda, Kans., who is also interested in farming and stock raising, is a native of Ohio, and has lived in Butler county since 1873. He is a son of Joel S. and Marilla (Kelly) Braley, both natives of Meigs county, Ohio. They were the parents of two children, as follows: Mrs. Theora Davis, who resides in Towanda township, and Matsy, the subject of this sketch.

The Braley family came to Butler county in 1873, when Matsy, whose name introduces this sketch, was fourteen years old. They located on the southwest quarter of section 15, Towanda township. Here the father engaged in farming and stock raising and followed that occupation until his death in December, 1899, and his widow resides on a place which they purchased some years after locating in Towanda township, and which adjoins the original homestead.

Matsy Braley received his education in the public school at Towanda and recalls among his early teachers, Calvin Rayburn, Josie Dutton, R. S. Miller, Vol. P. Mooney and Miles Jacoby. The old school house where he attended school has long since disappeared, and the place which it occupied is now the site of Porter's barn. After leaving school Mr. Braley learned the carpenter trade and has followed carpenter work and contracting quite extensively in Towanda and vicinity. He has built a number of residences in Towanda, including those of O. L. Thomas, Collins Sarder, J. W. Tucker and Art Reeves. Mr. Braley also carries on farming and stock raising on his 240-acre farm, which is situated one-half mile south of Towanda, and is one of the successful agriculturalists of Towanda township.

When Mr. Braley came to Butler county with his parents, the real pioneer conditions of Butler county prevailed. Dried buffalo meat was on sale for ten cents per pound, and many things that happened in those early days made lasting impressions on his mind. He remembers when the country was swept by grasshoppers in 1874, when everything in sight was destroyed. He says that they had a young orchard of 200 peach trees and that the grasshoppers not only ate the leaves, but stripped the little trees of bark. The following year, however, new sprouts came up from the roots and the trees eventually developed, seemingly none the worse from the effects of the grasshopper treatment.

Mr. Braley is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Knights of Pythias, holding membership in both of these lodges at Towanda, Kans. He is a progressive and public spirited citizen and is ever ready to co-operate with any movement for the betterment of his town, county or State.

**Bishop Brothers.**—This enterprising and progressive firm is composed of Emmet and James Bishop, and they rank among the successful dealers in Percheron horses and Holstein cattle of Butler county. Both Emmett and James Bishop were born in Benton county, Arkansas, and their parents both died when the boys were very young. James was taken by an uncle who resided in Missouri, and was reared to man-

hood and educated there. Emmett was reared in Arkansas and was educated in the public schools of Benton county. In 1891, he located in Bates county, where he followed farming until February, 1899; he then went to the State of Washington, where he remained until November of that year, when he came to Butler county, and he and his brother James entered the employ of J. C. Robison at the Whitewater Falls stock farm. After remaining there about a year the two brothers went to Oklahoma to harvest a crop of wheat which they had there, after which they returned to Kansas, making Towanda their permanent home.

James entered the general store of M. Orban, Jr., as a clerk and Emmet entered the employ of the D. M. Osborne Machine Company, and was on the road for that company for two years and then entered the employ of the J. I. Case Company, of Racine, Wis., traveling for that company four years. While Emmet was on the road, James began to deal in Percheron horses, in a small way, and in 1908 was joined by his brother, Emmet, and the partnership which was formed at that time still exists. J. C. Robison had an interest in the business up to that time, but in 1909 Bishop Brothers became the exclusive owners.

The Bishop Brothers have been unusually successful in their venture and are among the representative Percheron horse dealers of the State. They usually have on hand about seventy-five head of Percheron horses and their farm, three and one-half miles southeast of Towanda, and stables, located at Towanda, are well equipped and adapted to this line of business. During the past year they have added a new feature to their business and are rapidly building up a trade as dealers in Holstein cattle, and now have on hand about 150 head of pure bred and high grade animals. They have 320 acres of land, about half of which they reserve for pasture and the other half is under a high state of cultivation. The Bishop Brothers are among the leading horse and cattle men of the county.

**Mrs. Rebecca Hammond**, widow of the late Isaac Hammond, is one of the noble pioneer women of Butler county. She was born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1843, and was reared and educated there. Her father, Jacob Isenberger, was also a native of Ohio, and belonged to one of the pioneer families of that State. The late Isaac Hammond was a native of England and immigrated to America with his parents who settled in Illinois when he was four years old. Here he grew to manhood, was educated in the public schools, and remained on the home farm until the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted in an Illinois regiment, and served until the close of the war. After receiving his honorable discharge from the army, he returned to his home in Hancock county, Illinois, where he and Miss Rebecca Isenberger were united in marriage, pursuant to their engagement which had taken place before Mr. Hammond enlisted in the army.

In the spring of 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond came to Butler coun-



**ISAAC HAMMOND AND WIFE, REBECCA HAMMOND, AND GRANDCHILDREN**  
Reading from left to right: Florence Valentine, Richard Valentine (standing),  
John Isaac Hammond (In front), Mildred Hammond, and Myrl Hammond.

ty, Kansas, driving the entire distance from Illinois, with a team and prairie schooner. They camped on the banks of the Whitewater, and Mrs. Hammond remained with the wagon while her husband rode over the surrounding country in search of a suitable claim. It was several days before he found one which was satisfactory, but one night upon his return, he told his wife that he had found a location. She had told him before he started out that, in making his selection, he must pick a good claim for she said, "When I settle on a place I'll never leave it." Fortunately Mr. Hammond did make a good selection, and it was the family home for thirty-seven years. They immediately proceeded to their claim, and lived in a tent there, made of their wagon cover, from May 1 to August 17. They began farming and stock raising on their claim and prospered, and at the time of his death in August, 1908, Mr. Hammond owned 800 acres of land which is still owned by the family. He was an industrious and capable business man and a progressive citizen; and a man who made the world better, for having lived in it. To Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have been born the following children: Walter, died at the age of twenty-eight; Mrs. Jennie Valentine, Greeley, Colo.; Harry, farmer, Augusta; Sydney, farmer, Augusta; Ike, farmer, Augusta; Gladys, died in infancy, and Ray, farmer, Towanda.

Mrs. Hammond resides at Augusta where she and her husband had lived for some time prior to his death. She is enjoying excellent health, and is unusually well preserved for a woman of her age. She does her own housework and is as active mentally and physically as the average person of forty or fifty. Mrs. Hammond has seen much of the life and development of Butler county, and she can relate many interesting reminiscences of pioneer days. On one occasion their house caught fire while she was some distance away for a pail of water. When she saw the fire it immediately occurred to her that one of her children was asleep upstairs in the house, and she lost no time in getting the child out of its dangerous predicament, and then she proceeded to extinguish the fire with melted snow water which she had prepared the day before for the weekly washing.

**Isaac Newton Walton Mooney**, a member of one of the pioneer families of Butler county, who settled at Towanda nearly half a century ago, is a native of Illinois. He was born in 1859, and is a son of Rev. Isaac Mooney, a more extensive sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Isaac N. W. Mooney was one of the following children born to his parents: S. R., Towanda, Kans.; Vol. P., El Dorado, Kans.; Margaret (deceased); Mrs. Celia Swiggett, Wichita, Kans.; Isaac N. W., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Sarepta Spaulding, Benton township; Joseph, Wichita, and Mrs. Luella Orbon, Whittier, Cal.

Mr. Mooney received his education in the public schools of Butler county, first attending a log school house, furnished with plain, rough benches. A Mr. McFarland was the first teacher here. Mr. Mooney

followed the mercantile business in Chase county, Kansas, for about eight years, when he went to Stevens county, Kansas, and homesteaded a claim. He conducted a grocery store at Hugoton, Kans., and was there during the stirring days of the county seat fight between Hugoton and Woodsdale, the affair ending in the shooting of Samuel Wood by Sam Brennan. Mr. Mooney went from Stevens county to Colorado, where he remained about two years, and in 1890 returned to Towanda, Kans. In 1897 he was appointed postmaster by President McKinley, and faithfully and efficiently discharged the duties of that office until February 15, 1915. He has been identified more or less with Towanda and Butler county since his boyhood.

Mr. Mooney was united in marriage September 23, 1885, to Miss Jane A. Turner, of Towanda. She is a daughter of John and Agnes (Elwood) Turner, natives of Grasmere, England. They were pioneers of Butler county, coming here in 1874, locating near Towanda, on the west side of the Whitewater. The father died in 1883, and the mother passed away in 1908, and their remains are buried in the Towanda cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Mooney have been born three children, the eldest of whom died in infancy, and the others are as follows: Eulala died at the age of eleven years, and Myrtle, married William Bloir, of Towanda township, and they have three children, Vinita, Olive and Clifford.

Mr. Mooney is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Fraternal Citizens, and he and Mrs. Mooney are members of the Christian church. Mr. Mooney and his wife have grown up with Butler county, and are familiar with many reminiscences of pioneer days. They suffered considerable loss from the cyclone which struck Towanda and vicinity in 1892. Their residence was completely destroyed and much of their household goods was blown away and destroyed, and Mrs. Mooney was severely injured. The family Bible, which had been a present to Mrs. Mooney a year before the cyclone, was one of the articles which they found in the neighborhood after the storm, and its pages still bear mute testimony of the wind and rain of that memorable, devastating storm.

**Daniel Mosier**, a Butler county pioneer, who has spent nearly half a century of his life in Towanda township, is a native of Fulton county, Illinois. He was born in 1855, and is a son of Daniel and Amanda (Farris) Mosier, both natives of Ohio. The Mosier family consisted of the following children who grew to maturity: Jonas L., Towanda township; Daniel, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Florence Graves, Fair Valley, Woodward county, Okla.; Mrs. Eva Thomas, Towanda township, and Miles who died in Towanda township in 1914.

The Mosiers came to Kansas and located in Towanda township, Butler county, in the spring of 1868, and the father bought a place about a mile west of where the town of Towanda is now located, and here they began life under primitive conditions common to a new and unsettled

country. For a time they lived in a cabin, 10x12 feet, which had been built on the claim by a man named Hager. This was a very early day in the settlement of Butler county, and the conveniences and comforts of ordinary civilized communities were sadly lacking. In 1869 four of the Mosier children, Sarah, Laura, Elisha and Arena, died of scarlet fever.

In 1867 there were no schools in the section where the Mosiers settled, but shortly afterward the settlers hauled lumber from Emporia, which was the trading point for the early settlers on the Whitewater, and built a school house, which later became known as District No. 16 school, and here Daniel Mosier, his wife and children were educated. Daniel Mosier on one occasion with his brother was on foot hunting the cattle on the prairie and got lost. Their dog kept running ahead and then back to them, indicating that he knew the way. At last they decided to follow him, and he led them safely home. There were few settlers here when the Mosiers came, Mr. Mosier being able to recall only two, Anthony Davis and Daniel Cupp, who lived in this vicinity prior to 1867. Harrison Sterns and his family came at the same time that the Mosiers did, and Richard Jones and family, wife and two children, came in the fall of 1868 and lived with Harrison Sterns in his 10x12 cabin and they cooked on their fire place and got along with as little, or even less, friction than people would nowadays in more commodious quarters. They really did not have sufficient room for very much trouble. Other settlers followed close after the Mosiers, including the Jones, Green and Lytle families, and Mr. Lytle built the first grist mill in that section, which was located on what is now the Higgins farm, and did considerable custom work for the early settlers and was of great convenience to them. Later the mill was swept away by a flood.

Mr. Mosier recalls the time when the first self-rake reaper was brought into the settlement. Mr. Jones was the purchaser, and during the first season he operated his machine night and day, harvesting grain for the settlers. Mr. Mosier was here during the Indian scare of 1868, when James Kelly and his brother brought in the report that the Cheyennes were on the warpath and that a band of warriors was coming down the Whitewater on an expedition of murder and pillage. After considerable preparation and much excitement and fear, the report was found to be unfounded, as were many similar reports in the early days.

Mr. Mosier was united in marriage with Adelia Jones, of Towanda, the marriage ceremony being performed by W. H. Fitch. Mrs. Mosier was a daughter of Richard and Elsie Jane (Snodgrass) Jones, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Indiana. The Jones family came to Kansas in 1868, locating in Towanda, Butler county. Mrs. Mosier was one of a family of seven children, the others being as follows: R. M., Towanda; D. A. resides on the old homestead; G. M., Fort Cobb, Okla.; E. L., Forgan, Okla.; Mrs. Margaret Brown, Forgan, Okla., and Mrs. Berintha Hill, Custer, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Mosier are the parents of the following children, all of whom are living at home: Earl, Vera, Myrtle, Andrew, Glenn, Lena and Lloyd.

Mr. Mosier is one of the extensive farmers and stock raisers of Towanda township, and has fed cattle quite extensively, which he has found to be a very profitable enterprise. He owns 305 acres, which is considered one of the best farms in Towanda township. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 163, and has been a member of that organization since 1893. His son, Earl, is a member of the same lodge. Mr. Mosier is one of the leading farmers of Towanda township and well and favorably known throughout Butler county.

**J. L. Mosier**, of Towanda township, came to Butler county with his parents forty-nine years ago, when he was a lad of fourteen. His first experiences in the new country were at a time of life when the new conditions and unusual experiences of pioneer life made vivid and lasting impressions on his mind. He remembers many instances and recounts with accuracy and detail events of the early days which are both important and entertaining to the present and future generations. J. L. Mosier is a son of Daniel and Amanda (Farris) Mosier, who settled in Towanda township with their family in 1867. The father followed farming and met with a reasonable degree of success, and spent his life in Towanda township. He died in 1907, the mother having preceded him in death by five years. For a more extended history of the Mosier family, see sketch of Daniel Mosier elsewhere in this volume.

J. L. Mosier received his education in the public schools of Fulton county, Illinois, which was the place of his birth, and after coming to Butler county attended school in District No. 16, the school house there having been built after the Mosier family settled in that vicinity. His first teacher was Mrs. Clara Priest and later Judge Vol. P. Mooney taught in that district. The Mosier family located about two miles northwest of Towanda, and at that time the Towanda postoffice was located about a half mile north and west of the present town site and Mrs. Sam Fulton was postmistress. Settlers living in the vicinity of Wichita, or where the city of Wichita is now located, got their mail here at that time. James R. Mead kept a little store on the present site of Towanda. When the Mosiers settled in this section there were only four other families within a radius of ten miles, which were the Davis family, James Kelly, Samuel Van and Daniel Cupp.

J. L. Mosier has made farming and stock raising his life's work and has met with more than ordinary success. In addition to his grain farming, he raises horses, cattle and poultry, and owns a valuable farm of 320 acres, which includes the old Mosier homestead. He is unmarried. Mr. Mosier is a member of the Anti Horse Thief Association and the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Eva Thomas, a sister of J. L. Mosier, resides with him, and is his housekeeper. She was born on the Mosier homestead, and when a child attended the school in District No. 16.



**J. R. Ralston**, Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer, has been a resident of this county for forty-seven years. He was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1848, a son of Andrew and Ellen (Paxton) Ralston, natives of Scotland, who were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Ellen McKnight, Chetopa, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Wicks, Bartlesville, Okla.; Lizzie, Fowler, Cal.; Andrew J., Towanda, Kan.; Robert R., Canon City, Col.; J. R., the subject of this sketch; John, deceased; Margaret, deceased, and Sarah, deceased.

The Ralson family removed from Ohio to Illinois at an early date, and J. R. was educated in the common schools of Warren county, Illinois, and at the early age of sixteen he enlisted in Company K, Sixty-fourth Illinois infantry, in March, 1864, at Chicago, Ill., under Colonel Morrel. He was first sent to Alabama and a week later joined Sherman's march to the sea and participated in the following engagements: Resaca, Dalton, Snake Creek Gap, Big Shanty, Kenesaw Mountain and the Atlanta campaign, and on July 22, 1864, received a gunshot wound in the shoulder in the last mentioned engagement. He was in the campaign in pursuit of Hood and served under General McPherson at Atlanta. After the close of the war he was mustered out of service at Louisville, Ky., July 11, 1865. He then returned to Illinois, and, after remaining in Livingston county for a short time, he went to Monmouth, and in 1868 came to Kansas and took up a claim of government land in Towanda township, Butler county. The following year he disposed of his interest in that claim and pre-empted a quarter section two and a half miles southwest of Towanda, which has been his home for the past forty-seven years. He took this land from its raw prairie state and soon made of it one of the best improved farms to be found in that section of the county. The place is well improved with a good residence, farm buildings, silo, etc. Mr. Ralston has followed both general farming and stock raising and has met with considerable success as a feeder. He also raises large numbers of hogs, specializing in the Duroc Jerseys. He is one of the successful alfalfa raisers of the county, usually having about fifty acres devoted to this crop.

Mr. Ralston was married in 1879, to Miss Ida Bennett, of Towanda, Kan., a daughter of a Butler county pioneer, who settled in Towanda township in 1871. To Mr. and Mrs. Ralston have been borne ten children, as follows: Albert E., Antelope, Kan.; Edna J., at home; Ella M., at home; Mrs. Bessie Wood, Towanda, Kan.; Renwick P., Towanda, Kan.; Ray, Augusta, Kan.; Mary, Clarence and Edith, all at home, and Lillian B., deceased.

Mr. Ralston had many experiences in the early days in Butler county. Coming here at a time when this section of the State was in almost its primitive condition, he had an opportunity to witness the formative period and watch the development of Butler county for nearly half a century. When he first came here game of all kinds was plentiful. There were lots of deer and small game, but the great herds of buffalo

were begining to move westward. He experienced many of the Indian scares of the early days. He recalls an early instance when the Cheyennes were on the warpath and the residents of Towanda expected an attack from these hostile Indians at any time, and on that occasion he and three others, Tim Pete, Andy J. Ralston and a Mr. Brown stood guard around the town all one night.

Mr. Ralston is well and favorably known in Butler county and is one of its substantial citizens. He has done his part nobly and well in the building up and development of the "State of Butler" and is deserving of much credit for the part he has taken in times of peace as well as in the stirring days of the Civil war.

**A. W. Stearns**, a Civil war veteran and pioneer newspaper man, has been a resident of Butler county since 1868. Mr. Stearns was born in Fulton county, Illinois, in 1845, and is a son of J. G. and Mary J. (Wilson) Stearns, both natives of New York, the former of Chautauqua county and the latter of Cayuga county. The father was born in 1818, and the mother in 1823. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Georgia Mitchell (deceased); Mrs. Victoria Schrader, Albany, Ore.; Mrs. A. Kirby, Massilla Park, N. M.; Z. A., Seling, Okla.; E. B. (deceased), and A. W., the subject of this sketch.

A. W. Stearns had the advantages of a good education, having attended the public schools of Fulton county, and was a student in the high school at Peoria, Ill., when the Civil war broke out. He was then only sixteen years of age, but was among the first to respond to the President's call for defenders of the Union. Although a mere boy, he enlisted in Company G, Eleventh Illinois cavalry, under Col. Robert G. Ingersoll. Mr. Stearns was with his regiment at the battle of Shiloh and served through the Vicksburg campaign. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and participated in the siege of Atlanta and took part in many hard fought battles and a countless number of skirmishes and minor engagements. He was lightly wounded by a sharpshooter at Columbia, S. C., the ball grazing his neck and making quite an ugly and disagreeable flesh wound. After Lee's surrender, Mr. Stearns's command marched north through the Carolinas and on to Washington, where they participated in the grand review. He was mustered out of service at Louisville, Ky., in August, 1865, and returned to Peoria, Ill., where he completed his high school course. He was then engaged as a clerk in a book store for two years, and in 1868 came to Kansas and took a homestead on the Whitewater river, where he homesteaded a quarter section, which he still owns. He followed farming here for sixteen years, when, on account of failing health, he went to El Dorado Springs, Mo., and shortly afterwards engaged in the newspaper business there, publishing the El Dorado "Tribune" for five years. After remaining in Missouri about twelve years, he returned to Towanda and for a time was connected with the Towanda "News." He was editor of that paper for one year. He has also done considerable

newspaper work for the Walnut Valley "Times" and other newspapers, but for the past few years he has been engaged in farming and stock raising on his old homestead in Towanda township. He is one of the few still living on their original homesteads in Butler county.

Mr. Stearns was married at Fulton, Ill., in 1868, to Miss Mary E. Geyer, who died at Wichita, February 18, 1888, leaving two children, as follows: Joseph A., who is connected with the Wichita "Beacon," and Grace B., the wife of Dr. Lowery, a prominent physician and surgeon of Excelsior Springs, Mo. Mr. Stearns married for his second wife, Mrs. Fannie Jett, of El Dorado Springs, Mo. Mrs. Jett is the mother of two children by her former marriage: B. P. Jett, of Towanda, Kans., and Walter P. Jett, of Nardin, Okla.

Mr. Stearns is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Grand Army of the Republic. His life has been marked by experiences out of the ordinary, as a soldier and pioneer.

He came to Butler county almost at the beginning, and had an opportunity to witness the growth and development of this county almost from its dawn and has had an opportunity and an inclination to observe the trend of events during the formative period of Butler county. He is one of the best posted men on local history in his section of the county and takes a commendable pride and interest in doing his part towards the perpetuation of the history of his locality, that future generations may know something of the trials and hardships incident to reclaiming a broad expanse of waste and building such a county as Butler is today.

**O. E. Torrey**, manager of "East View" dairy farm, near Towanda, Kan., is one of the progressive and uptodate dairy men of Butler county. Mr. Torrey is a native of this county and was born in 1892. He is a son of Albert and Susie (Varner) Torrey, the former a native of Wisconsin and the latter of Iowa. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Effie Fresh, Potwin, Kans.; Mrs. Mamie Whiteside, Towanda, Kans.; Mrs. Vesta Larlie, Whitewater, Kans., and O. E., the subject of this sketch.

O. E. Torrey received his preliminary education in the public schools of Butler county and then attended Friend's University at Wichita, and Owensboro College at Owensboro, Ky. He then took a course in the Mills Business College at Wichita, Kans., after which he was engaged in general farming for two years. In 1914, he engaged in the dairy business on an extensive scale on the "East View" dairy farm, which is located one-half mile north of Towanda. This is, no doubt, the most modern dairy farm in Butler county, and it can be truthfully stated that the place is equipped with the most modern methods for handling this important branch of industry. Mr. Torrey has installed a milking machine, which is, perhaps the first apparatus of the kind to be successfully operated in Butler county. The device is capable of milking three cows at a time and is operated by a gasoline engine, and all other fixtures and conveniences about the place for the purposes of conducting

a modern sanitary dairy farm are in thorough keeping with the plan of this marvelous milking machine. "East View" dairy farm consists of 400 acres, and Mr. Torrey entered the dairy business there with twenty-five head of high-grade Holstein cows and shortly afterward increased the number to forty. Besides his extensive dairy business, he deals in dairy cows, and usually has on hand about 125 head. He is gradually raising the standard of his stock and eventually expects to have only pure bred stock. He ships the product of his dairy to the Wichita market, where he receives the highest price, as he has already established a standard of excellence for his products on the market.

Mr. Torrey was married July 17, 1914, to Miss Eleanor Gillespie, of Towanda, Kans. She was born in Towanda township and is a daughter of F. P. and Kate L. (Clancy) Gillespie. By a former marriage to Mrs. Sarah Fouch, Mr. Gillespie had three children, as follows: Mrs. Martha Ramsey, of Chelsea; W. E. Gillespie, Kansas City, Mo.; and Mrs. Grace G. Lemon, Denver, Col. F. P. Gillespie and Miss Kate L. Clancy were married at El Dorado, Kans., in 1893, and to this union, one child was born, Eleanor, the wife of O. E. Torrey.

F. P. Gillespie was a native of Newcastle, Pa., born in 1842. He came to Kansas in 1883 and died on his farm in Towanda township in 1907. During his lifetime F. P. Gillespie was a prominent factor in the business and political life of Butler county. At one time he owned that section of the city of El Dorado, known as Walnut Hill, which he platted into town lots and sold at a good profit. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of El Dorado and was its first cashier, the first president being John Fouch. They erected the building on the southeast corner of Main and Central, where the Citizens National Bank is now located. In 1893 he purchased the farm in Towanda township which is now the East View dairy farm. He took a prominent part in political affairs and served two terms in the Kansas legislature, the sessions of 1896 and 1898, and was prominent in the legislation of those sessions. He introduced the guarantee banking law and ably assisted in placing that act on the statute books of Kansas. He was a Presbyterian, and was a dominant factor in giving that denomination a substantial and permanent organization in El Dorado. Prior to her marriage to Mr. Gillespie, Miss Kate L. Clancy was cashier of the Bank of El Dorado and a prominent figure in the banking life of Butler county.

**William H. Morrison**, now deceased, was an early settler in Walnut township, and a Butler county pioneer, who contributed his part to the development of Butler county, from a barren plain to one of the great agricultural and industrial subdivisions of the State. William H. Morrison was born in Hawkins county, Tennessee, September 29, 1827, and died at his home in Walnut township, May 20, 1912. He belonged to a prominent Tennessee family, and was a nephew of Governor McMenn, of that State.

In 1870, Mr. Morrison came to Butler county, Kansas, locating four

miles northeast of Douglass at Walnut City, a little settlement which at that time had a store, blacksmith shop, and a few residences. He bought a relinquishment of a claim on a quarter section of land from a Mr. Lord, for which he paid \$600. Later he bought eighty acres of land for \$500, which was his home until the time of his death. When he settled on the claim, there were no improvements, with the exception of a small cabin, and the country was not very thickly settled at that time. He engaged in general farming and stock business, and later built a commodious farm residence and also erected a large barn on the place, adding other improvements until he had one of the best improved farms in that section of the county. He was an industrious and thrifty citizen, and by well directed efforts and good management, became very well-to-do, and left his family in very comfortable circumstances at his death.

William H. Morrison and Miss Hannah Caroline Glaze were united in marriage at Dalton, Ga., in 1860. She is a daughter of Lawrence and Elizabeth Glaze, of Washington county, Tennessee, and the youngest of a family of thirteen children, and the only one of whom is now living. To William Morrison and wife were born the following children: Hettie Elizabeth, residing at Gordon; Mrs. Mary Almeda Glaze, living at El Reno, Okla.; Mrs. Georgiana West, Morristory, Tenn., and Lawrence Eldridge, Gordon, Kans. Lawrence and Hettie live together at Gordon, and jointly own 188 acres of fine bottom land in the Walnut river valley, and are engaged in farming and stock raising.

The Morrison family settled in Walnut township in the real pioneer days of that section, and Mrs. Morrison has a distinct recollection of many stirring incidents and interesting events of the early days. She remembers the wholesale hangings that the vigilance committee carried out in the early days, which put an end to a series of depredations that had been committed for some time, much to the insecurity of the lives and property of the early settlers. Emporia was the terminal of the railroad when Mr. Morrison and his wife came here, and when they reached that point, they bought a team and wagon and drove to Walnut township, and on the trip from Emporia, Mrs. Morrison held her baby, Lawrence E., on her lap. Miss Hettie E. Morrison recalls the first school she attended, after coming here. It was held in the home of Norman Yowls, and Jennie Blakey was the teacher; and besides Miss Morrison, the other pupils were Ella Rogers, Florence and William Snodgrass, Mattie Blakey and Ida Friend.

The Morrison farm is in the rich oil and gas belt of the Augusta fields, and much development is being carried on in that vicinity.

**H. E. Cease**, a successful farmer and stockman of Walnut township, is a native son of Butler county. He was born near Augusta in 1874, and is a son of V. A. and Emma (Bowlden) Cease. The mother was a native of England. The parents came to Butler county in 1872, where the father homesteaded a quarter section of land, three-fourths of a mile north of where Gordon is now located. Here he engaged in

farming and stock raising until his death, in 1880. His wife survived him a number of years and passed away in 1910. Their remains now rest in the old cemetery at Augusta. They were the parents of two children: Mrs. Birdie Purcell, who died in 1896, and H. E., the subject of this sketch.

H. E. Cease was reared on the home farm and educated in the public schools of Butler county, and afterwards took a business course in the Wichita University. He then engaged in farming on the home place, and since the death of his father, has added eighty acres to the original farm and now has 240 acres, and is engaged in general farming and stock raising, having been unusually successful in raising hogs, never having lost one. The Cease farm is located in the heart of the oil and gas belt of Augusta.

Mr. Cease was married January 13, 1895, to Miss Anna Adams, of Augusta, Kans. She is a daughter of Oliver Adams, who came to Augusta in 1883, and he has been in the employ of the Santa Fe Railway Company as foreman for the past thirty-three years. To Mr. and Mrs. Cease have been born two daughters: Vernon, a graduate of the Augusta High School, class of 1915, and bears the distinction of having been the youngest member of her class; and Thelma, in school at Gordon. The Cease residence is modern in every particular, and one of the ideal farm homes of Butler county.

Mr. Cease takes a keen interest in local political affairs and has served as township treasurer for two terms, and is now serving his second term as township trustee. In 1915 he was appointed gas inspector of Butler county, and the large gas production of this county makes of this an important office with considerable work. Mr. Cease is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the Augusta Lodge and the Wichita Consistory. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Augusta.

**Daniel H. Cupp** is one of the very earliest pioneers of Butler county, and has been identified with Towanda township for over half a century. He has seen Butler county develop from a limitless plain to a land of homes and plenty. Mr. Cupp is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1836. His parents were Joseph and Mary Ann (Hager) Cupp. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are now deceased except Daniel H., the subject of this sketch.

Daniel H. Cupp first came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1860, and on July 10th of that year crossed the Whitewater river. He took a claim, one and one-half miles north of where Towanda now stands, which he later sold. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted in Jim Lane's cavalry. He first went to Leavenworth, and was later transferred to Fort Lincoln and then to Fort Riley, where, by a reorganization of his commands, he became a member of the Seventeenth Kansas regiment. He was honorably discharged at Fort Leavenworth in December, 1864. He was sergeant of his company when Rogers and

Stanton were captured in the southeastern part of Butler county. This capture consisted of \$30,000 of arms and cattle and thirty men. The troops took the outfit to Fort Lincoln, where it was turned over to the government.

After being discharged from the army, Mr. Cupp went to Junction City, Kans., and worked at the blacksmith trade until May, 1866, when he returned to Butler county and homesteaded a claim in Towanda township, one-half mile north and one-half mile west of the present town of Towanda, which is his home today. It consists of 130 acres of good land, and Mr. Cupp has successfully carried on farming and stock raising there all these years. Upon settling on his claim he built a cabin 16x24 after the average style of the pioneer home of those days, and ten years later this building was succeeded by a more commodious farm residence, which is still the Cupp home.

Mr. Cupp was married in September, 1861, to Miss Sarah C. Malan, of Anderson county, Kansas. She came to this State with her parents in the fifties and they settled near Neosha Falls, where they lived for several years. To Mr. and Mrs. Cupp have been born the following children: U. S., a railroad man, Webber, Kans.; Herschel was killed in a cyclone which devastated Towanda in 1891; M. B. resides in Towanda, Kans.; Roy L., farmer, Benton township; Mrs. Carry Vern Smith, Towanda, Kans., and T. B., residing on the home farm.

Mr. Cupp was appointed postmaster of Towanda when the office was on section 5, township 26, range 4, two miles north and about a mile west of its present location. He has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs and been willing to do his part toward the up-building and betterment of the community. He has always aimed to conscientiously do his duty in peace or in war, and not only Butler county, but Kansas, owes to the men of his type a debt of gratitude for which the present and future generations should at least endeavor to perpetuate the memories of this noble band of pioneers who laid the foundation for our present civilization.

When Mr. Cupp and his pioneer wife came here, this county was in a wild and unbroken state, almost as it had been left by the hand of the creator. The buffalo, antelope, deer and wild turkey were in abundance, and Mr. Cupp has frequently killed buffalo as well as other game, and even Mrs. Cupp, on one occasion, shot a wild turkey herself, which proved to be a twenty-one pound gobbler. She has also fought off wild-cats that were carrying away her chickens. Roaming bands of Osages, Kaws and Shawnees frequented the neighborhood of the Cupp home for a number of years after they located here. Sometimes the Indians begged and at other times they stole, and on rare occasions, threatened for food, but neither Mr. Cupp nor his wife were easily scared, and while they treated the Indians kindly, and frequently fed them, they were never afraid of them, or seriously molested. Some of the settlers, however, had more serious trouble with the "noble red man."

Mr. and Mrs. Cupp still have in their possession many interesting heirlooms of pioneer days, the most conspicuous of which might be mentioned, the old Seth Thomas clock which has ticked away the time for over half a century and still ticks on. The venerable pioneer couple are now in the sunset of their lives, are enjoying the fullness of the reward of years well spent, and Mr. Cupp, at the age of seventy-nine, and his wife in her seventy-third year, are hale and hearty, and in their physical and mental vigor, are equal to persons much younger than they.

**H. W. Hartenbower**, a Butler county pioneer and successful farmer and stockman, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Putnam county in 1850, and is a son of Jeremiah and Maria Hartenbower, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Kentucky. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Maria Brown, Leith, N. D.; Mrs. Frances C. Towl, Los Angeles; John H. died at Douglass; Andrew died at Douglass; J. J. died in Los Angeles, Cal., and H. W., the subject of this sketch.

H. W. Hartenbower received a good education in the public schools of Illinois, and afterwards attended Lombard College, at Galesburg, Ill. He later was a student at Notre Dame College, South Bend, Ind. When he was twenty-two years of age, in 1872, he came to Butler county and bought a farm of 160 acres on the Little Walnut, about three miles east of Gordon, in Walnut township, for which he paid \$1,350. While in Illinois, in 1874, which was grasshopper year, he sold his place and the same year returned to Butler county and herded cattle on the range, northeast of El Dorado, for two years. In 1879 he bought another 160 acres, part of which was in Walnut and part in Douglass townships. This place was slightly improved and had a small cabin on it. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising and met with success. In 1913 he removed to Douglass, where he has since resided. He has added to his original farm, as opportunity presented itself, from time to time, and is today one of the large land owners of Butler county. He owns 1,940 acres, 1,230 acres of which are in Walnut township and 560 in Clay, and he also has a handsome modern residence in Douglass. He has 160 acres under alfalfa, and he considers alfalfa one of the most important crops of Butler county. He also raises large quantities of corn. He has dealt extensively in cattle and has given a great deal of attention to feeding cattle for market, and during the past winter has shipped nine car loads to market, and now has considerably over a hundred head in the feed yard.

Mr. Hartenbower has taken a keen interest in public affairs, and in 1880 was elected a member of the board of county commissioners and served for three years. During his administration of the affairs of the county he gave the public business the same conscientious attention that he gives to his own business, and with very satisfactory results to the taxpayers of Butler county. During his term as county commissioner, Douglass bridge, across the Walnut river, was constructed, and also



the Aaron Barnes bridge, across Muddy creek. Mr. Hartenbower is a member of the Masonic lodge at Douglass, and is a Royal Arch Mason.

**Mary E. Allen Hartenbower**, widow of the late Andrew Hartenbower, deceased, is one of the surviving early pioneers of Butler county who deserves more than passing mention in a work of this character. Mrs. Hartenbower was born in Putnam county, in 1844. Her parents were William and Mary (Fairgreve) Allen, the father a native of England and the mother of Scotland, who immigrated to America and settled in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1832. They were the parents of the following children: John E. Allen, Rose, Kans.; Mrs. Mattie Thomas, Hennepen, Ill.; Mrs. Willie A. Stouffer, Hennepen, Ill.; Mrs. Mary E. Hartenbower, the subject of this sketch; James F. Allen, who enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourth regiment, Illinois infantry, in 1861, was taken prisoner at Hartsville by the Confederates and died in a hospital at Nashville, Tenn.; and Mrs. Anna Denning, deceased.

Mrs. Hartenbower was reared in Illinois, and received a good education in the public schools at Hennepen, Ill., and was a teacher for four years prior to her marriage to Andrew Hartenbower, April 2, 1868. Andrew Hartenbower was a native of Illinois, born in 1832. He received a good education, attending the public schools and also the academy at Granville, Ill. He followed farming in early life, and was also engaged in the grain and commission business. Mr. and Mrs. Hartenbower came to Kansas in 1872, and first located at Baxter Springs, Cherokee county, where they remained about six months when they came on west to Butler county and bought a claim on the Little Walnut river, consisting of 160 acres, located south of Gordon, and later added 320 acres on the Big Walnut to the original place. This land is all located on the east bank of the Walnut river. When the Hartenbowers settled here, the place was practically unimproved with the exception of the small two-roomed cabin. Mr. Hartenbower engaged in general farming and stock raising and became one of Butler county's successful and substantial citizens. In 1886 they removed to Douglass to give their children the better educational advantages afforded by the Douglass schools. Mr. Hartenbower died in 1904. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been affiliated with that order for over fifty years. In his death, Douglass and Butler county lost not only a prominent pioneer, but one of the most valued citizens.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hartenbower were born the following children: Mrs. Willa Mina Anderson, San Antonio, Tex.; Mrs. Mary M. Best, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Allen W., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Mrs. Mattie A. La Port, Newkirk, Okla.; Jerry J., Great Bend, Kans.; Mrs. Byrda A. Stinson, Offerle, Kans.; John; William A., Anna D., and Mrs. Edith Ward, all of Douglass.

Mrs. Hartenbower has seen much of the early life of Butler county, and is capable of relating many of the early day reminiscences in a most entertaining manner. While Butler county has been victimized, mostly

by drouths, Mrs. Hartenbower has a vivid recollection of one instance when they had so much water that they had no place to put it. The Little Walnut river, after long continued rains, flooded the surrounding country to such an extent that the Hartenbowers could not leave their place by going in any direction. They were patient, however, remaining at home until the flood subsided, and in a few months were fully repaid by a prolonged dry spell. Most of the old timers who lived in that vicinity, when Mrs. Hartenbower and her husband came, have long since passed to their final reward. Mrs. Hartenbower like many other noble pioneer women of the early days of Butler county, will long be remembered for her contribution to the building up of Butler county, and making of it a better place to live.

**William M. Pierson**, a Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer, was born in Marion county, Ohio, in 1842, a son of Phileman P. and Rachel (Johnson) Pierson. William M. Pierson is the only survivor of a family of thirteen children. A sister of his, Mrs. Rosanna Merritt, lived to the advanced age of ninety-three years. She died at Meringo, Iowa. Mr. Pierson was educated in the public schools of Ohio and later attended Mount Hesper Seminary, a Quaker institution in Morrow county, Ohio.

He followed the peaceful pursuits of the average young man of the time until the Civil war broke out, and then in response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers, he enlisted in May, 1861, in Company E, Twenty-sixth regiment, Ohio infantry, at Columbus, Ohio. He was mustered out of service at Columbus, Ohio, in 1862, after having served thirteen months. He also had a brother, Charles, who died at Savannah, Miss., while serving in the Union army.

After returning from the army, Mr. Pierson taught school in Ohio and Iowa for three years, going to the latter State in 1863. During the time he was engaged in teaching, he was also interested in farming. In October, 1870, he came to Kansas and preempted a quarter section of land in Walnut township, on the west bank of the Walnut river in the fertile Walnut valley. His mother came here in 1871 and died, May 9, 1872. Since locating in Walnut township, Mr. Pierson has been engaged in general farming and stock raising with uniform success with the exception of the season of 1874, when the grasshoppers, the original Kansas harvest hands, harvested the crop. During that winter, he managed to get along fairly well by cutting wood on his place and hauling it to Wichita, where he sold it for \$2 a load. It was a difficult way to get \$2, but the only thing that could be done at that time. Mr. Pierson was also a successful wheat grower in the early days, one of his first crops being 180 bushels of wheat which he raised on six acres of ground.

Mr. Pierson was married in 1866 to Miss Ella Josephine Lewis. To this union were born four children, as follows: G. M., living on the home place; Mrs. Eva R. Gilbreck, San Francisco, Cal.; Mrs. Carrie

Smith, Custer, Okla.; Mrs. Mary E. Huff, Woodward, Okla. The mother of these children died in 1889, and on September 5, 1903, Mr. Pierson was married to Mrs. Emma Caldwell of Morrow county, Ohio. Her father, John Krout, was a native of Maryland, and an early settler of Morrow county, Ohio. He was a prominent educator and active in educational work up to 1914. For a number of years, he was a professor in the Chicago Northwestern Business College. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Dennis, and was a native of Ohio. Mrs. Mary E. Pierson has one son by a former marriage, Harry Caldwell, a stenographer of Waterloo, Iowa.

**F. J. B. King**, a Butler county pioneer, and prosperous land owner, is a native of England. He was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1842, and is a son of William and Hannah (Burroughs) King, both natives of England, the father being born in 1790 and the mother in 1800. They were the parents of eight children. The King family immigrated to America in 1851, and settled at West Liberty, Ohio. Of the eight children born to the parents, only two are now living, F. J. B., the subject of this sketch, and S. S., who resides at Dietrich, Idaho. He is an attorney, and for a number of years has been prominently identified with the affairs of Idaho. He is an author of note, and an especially gifted political writer; and he is secretary of the Good Roads Association of Idaho. While a resident of Kansas, he served as commissioner of Kansas City, Kans., having been appointed to that office by Governor Stanley. He was also a candidate for Congress prior to that time.

F. J. B. King, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the public schools of Ohio, and the Prairie City Academy, Prairie City, Ill. Mr. King has followed farming almost exclusively, with the exception of eighteen months, when he was engaged in the clothing business at Prairie City, Ill. He came to Kansas in 1870, and located in that part of Little Walnut township which is now Glencoe. Here he preempted 160 acres of land, and engaged in farming and stock raising, and was successful from the start. He added more land to his original homestead, and now owns 400 acres in Glencoe township, which he bought in 1888, and paid \$5,000 for it. About 160 acres of his land is fertile bottom land and very productive. After a residence of twenty years on his place in Glencoe township, he came to El Dorado, and his present residence is on a twelve-acre tract, which adjoins the city of El Dorado on the west.

Mr. King was married in 1867, to Mary J. Taylor, at Prairie City, Ill. Three children were born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Anna Dubach, Kansas City, Mo.; Clyde B., farmer, El Dorado township; and Mrs. Inez Brenton, Kansas City, Mo. The mother of these children died in 1907.

In 1908, Mr. King was married to Mrs. Nellie Heath, of Henniker, N. H., a daughter of Eri Colby, and a descendant of a very old New England family. The Colby family was founded in America in 1630, and came to this country with Governor Wentworth. The direct lineal an-

cestors of Mrs. King of the family are as follows: her father, Eri Colby, was a son of Silas Colby; Silas was a son of Levi; Levi was a son of Eliphalet; Eliphalet was a son of Isaac; Isaac was a son of Isaac; Isaac was a son of Thomas; and Thomas was a son of Anthony Colby, who was a native of Ross Hall, Beccles, England. Anthony Colby came to New England with Governor Wentworth in 1630. The Wentworth fleet first dropped anchor in Salem Harbor, and two or three days later, sailed to what is now Boston Harbor, and founded the city of Boston, and Anthony Colby was number 93 of the roll of the first Church in Boston colony.

Mr. and Mrs. King have a fine modern home with pleasant and attractive surroundings, and here they are spending their lives in peace and plenty, as the result of former toil and well directed efforts.

**Joseph L. Eyman, M. D.**, a well known, successful physician and surgeon in El Dorado, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born at Kittanning, Armstrong county, February 23, 1860, and is a son of J. W. and Rebecca (Richie) Eyman, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Pittsburg and the latter of Templeton, Armstrong county. The Eyman family is of German descent and was founded in this country prior to the Revolutionary war by three brothers, Abram, Isaac and Jacob. Abram located at Wellsville, Ohio; Jacob in Pittsburg, Pa., and Isaac was a frontiersman who never located definitely in any place. Dr. Eyman is a descendant of Jacob, who was his great-great-grandfather. Jacob served in the Revolutionary war, and his son, Jacob, Dr. Eyman's grandfather, served in the War of 1812, and Dr. Eyman's father was a member of the Sixty-third regiment, Pennsylvania infantry, and served in the Civil war, with the Army of the Potomac. He came to Kansas with his family in 1867, and located in Atchison, where he remained one year; they then moved to Granada, Nemaha county, where the father took a homestead, and resided on it until 1905, when he sold his property there and removed to El Dorado, where Dr. Eyman could give medical attention to his mother, who was in poor health. The father died July 8, 1912, aged eighty-two years, and the mother now resides in El Dorado at the advanced age of eighty-three. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: G. M., Kansas City, Kans.; Joseph L., the subject of this sketch; J. H. and W. H., twins, reside at Moline, Kans.; Ella, married Genoa Reeder and resides in Oklahoma; Neta, wife of M. B. Hitchcock, Kansas City, Mo.; Ida, died in 1894, and Mollie, died in 1895.

Dr. Eyman was six years of age when his parents came to Kansas. He attended the public schools in this State until 1874, when he returned to Pennsylvania and attended Dayton Academy, Dayton, Pa. After remaining there four years, he returned to Kansas and taught school in Wabaunsee county for two years. He then entered Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., and later entered the Northwestern Medical College, Chicago, Ill., where he was graduated February 25,



JOSEPH L. EYMAN, M. D.

1887, with a degree of Doctor of Medicine. He then went to Marshall county, Kansas, and practiced four years at Bigelow, and three years at Frankfort. In 1895, he went to Sun Dance, Wyo., and from there to Ekalaka, Mont., and was engaged in professional work for the Government until 1900, when he returned to Frankfort, Kans., and practiced until 1904. He then came to El Dorado and bought a ranch west of town and was engaged in the cattle business in partnership with his son for two years. He then engaged in the practice of his profession at El Dorado, where he has built up a large general practice, and also does a great deal of surgical work. He is local surgeon for the Missouri Pacific railroad and is a member of the United States Board of Pension Examiners, of which he is secretary.

Dr. Eyman has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Harriet F. Smarr, of Granada, to whom two children were born, one of whom is living, Charles, a dentist, at Bismarek, N. D. Dr. Eyman's second marriage took place in Wichita in 1906, to Miss Amanda F. Smarr, of that city. Dr. Eyman reared an adopted daughter, Sylvia Eyman. She possessed unusual musical talents, and she was given every advantage, and obtained a finished musical education. Before her marriage she taught music in the high school at Springfield, Mo. She is now the wife of John Howard, of Sylvia, Wis. Dr. Eyman is a member of the American Medical Association, and his fraternal affiliations are with the Masonic Lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He is a Democrat and a member of the Christian church.

**M. N. Joseph**, a Kansas pioneer and early settler of Butler county, is a native of Virginia and comes from an honorable line of Colonial ancestors. He was born in Tyler county, Virginia, November 22, 1839, and is a son of Waitman and Sarah (Cox) Joseph. When Lord Baltimore came to Maryland with his colony, Jessup Joseph, his wife and brother were members of that colony, and that was the beginning of the branch of the Joseph family in America of whom M. N. Joseph is a descendant. One of the descendants of Jessup Joseph, William Joseph, was the great grandfather of M. N. Joseph. William Joseph migrated from Maryland to Morgantown, Va., some time prior to the Revolutionary war, and many of his descendants now live in Virginia. Waitman Joseph, father of M. N., was born in Tyler county, Virginia, in 1808. He was a son of Nathan and Margaret (Furby) Joseph, the former being a son of William Joseph, the founder of the Virginia branch of the Joseph family. Margaret Furby was of Scotch descent. Waitman Joseph and his wife, Sarah Cox, were the parents of eight children, of whom M. N. was the third in order of birth. Three sons of this family were early settlers in Kansas: M. N. and William I. and James, further mention of whom are made in this volume. Waitman Joseph died in February, 1895, and his wife died the same year.

When the Civil war broke out, M. N. Joseph cast his lot with the lost cause, and did his duty as he saw it, remaining loyal to his native

State, Virginia. He enlisted in Company A, Thirty-first regiment, Virginia infantry, and served under Gen. Robert E. Lee in the army of Virginia until the end of that great struggle, and was in the ranks of that great military chieftain on the final day at Appomatox Court House, April 9, 1865, when the curtain fell on that tragedy, and the Confederate States of America became a matter of history.

Mr. Joseph was married in 1862 to Miss Mary Jones, a daughter of William and Jemima (Smith) Jones, early settlers of Marietta, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph remained in Virginia after the war, until 1868, when they with their two children, came to Kansas, locating near Topeka. In the fall of the same year they went to Osage county where Mr. Joseph bought 320 acres of land. In 1875 they removed to Butler county and bought 160 acres of land on the Whitewater river in Plum Grove township. Here Mr. Joseph proceeded to make his future home in Butler county. He built a small log cabin and proceeded to improve his place. Later he bought 320 acres, and soon became one of the prosperous farmers and stockmen of that vicinity, and for forty-one years has been an active factor in the development and upbuilding of Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph have been born the following children: Orma S., deceased; Ida S., deceased; Abraham; Furby, deceased; Francis M.; S. R.; Sadie, married Warren Poffinbarger; Maude, married Ozza Ralph, Butler county. Mrs. Joseph died March 12, 1904, and Mr. Joseph resides with his son, S. R., not far from the site of his first log cabin in Butler county. He is a member of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, Whitewater Lodge, No. 280, and is active and well known in Masonic circles. Politically he is a Democrat.

**Stephen Anderson**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Walnut township, is a native of Ireland, and was born in County Armagh, in the town of Derryscollop, in 1846. He is a son of Thomas A. and Margaret (White) Anderson. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Joseph, lives on the home place in Ireland; Elizabeth and Matilda, also living in Ireland; Stephen, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Ann Welford, Douglass, Kans.; Thomas resides with Stephen; Lydia resides with Stephen.

Mr. Anderson immigrated to America in 1865 and located in Canada, where he remained two years when he removed to Illinois. Two years later, he went to Arkansas where he remained five years and came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1874. He settled in Walnut township and filed on the claim which is his present home. He bought 160 acres more, adjoining on the south and now owns 320 acres, all prairie upland; and he has followed farming and stockraising, and his well-directed efforts have been rewarded by success. When he came to Kansas in 1874, he was practically without money, but he was ambitious and determined to succeed. His first work was shelling 500 bushels of corn by hand. He helped build the first bridge on Eight Mile creek in Douglass township. He broke a few acres of prairie in 1874, and built a dugout and a stable, even before he had any horses. The next year he bought a team for

\$60.00, and rented some land of George Carey. He got a few cows, calves, mares and colts, and thus made his start in Butler county and built his house in 1882. He gradually raised more grain and cattle and today is one of the substantial and well-to-do men of the county. Some of his land is leased for oil and gas operations.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1876, to Miss Celia M. Lewis, of Walnut township. She died in 1883 and was buried in Douglass cemetery. Her father, Charles Lewis, came to Butler county in 1873, and died about 1909. Her mother died about 1875. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson: Mrs. Edith M. Rains, lives in Coddoo county, near Fort Cobb, Okla., and Joe F. lives at home with his father.

The Andersons feed from two to three cars of cattle a year and a carload of hogs. In the early days Mr. Anderson traded mostly at Wichita, twenty-five miles away. He is an industrious and thrifty man and a good citizen and it a representative of that type of men who built up the great West.

**Jessie Varner**, now deceased, was an early settler in Butler county, and, for a number of years, was a successful farmer and stockman. He was industrious and thrifty, and not only accumulated a competence and left his family in comfortable circumstances, but he was a citizen whose real worth to Butler county was recognized by all who knew him.

Jessie Varner was born in Washington county, Ohio, in 1828, and was a son of Joseph and Martha (Drumm) Varner, natives of Ohio. They were the parents of the following children: David; George; Mrs. Martha Pugh, all of whom reside in Washington county, Ohio; and John, deceased; Mrs. Rebecca Seal, Cedar Grove, Ind.; Daniel, died in Oregon; Mrs. Sarah Dunbar, died in Washington, and Jessie, the subject of this sketch.

Jessie Varner was reared to manhood in Washington county, Ohio, and educated in the public schools. For a time, he was a school teacher in early life in his native county, but later engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1861, he went to Illinois, locating at DeSoto, Jackson county, where he bought a farm and followed farming and stock raising until 1880. He then came to Kansas and located at DeGraff, Butler county, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising until 1892, when he bought 1,190 acres of land in the fertile Walnut river valley in Walnut township. He was an extensive feeder, and made money in this enterprise, and his career, all together, was that of a successful business man, who made the most of his opportunities. He died in 1904. He had an extensive acquaintance and many friends in Butler county. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Augusta.

Jessie Varner and Miss Olive Orr were united in marriage on April 4, 1861, in Wayne county, Illinois. Mrs. Varner was a native of Mahoning county, Ohio, where she was born in 1837, a daughter of Russel and Eleanor (Winans) Orr. To this union were born the following chil-



dren: Ed C., married Ona Carr, Augusta, Kans.; George F., married Mabel Marshall, Burlingame, Kans.; Frank, resides at home; Charles, married Gertrude Long, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Ella McDougal, Rock, Kans.; Emma, resides at Augusta, and Mrs. Dora Boss, Denver, Colorado. The Varner family is prominent in Butler county, and are known as substantial and representative people.

Ed and Frank Varner own the best oil producing land in Butler county, and, notwithstanding the high financial rating owing to this, they are still the plain, unassuming men of affairs their friends knew before, and their good fortune is a matter of rejoicing among these old time friends.

**Fred W. Benson**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer, and during his lifetime, was a prominent factor in the affairs of this county. He was born in Vermont in 1862, and was a son of Joel and Elvira (Hullett) Benson, both also natives of Vermont, and are now deceased. They were the parents of two children: William F., of El Dorado, who is the present State Bank Commissioner of Kansas, a sketch of whom appears in this volume, and Fred W., the subject of this sketch.

The Benson family which consisted of the parents and two sons, removed from Vermont to Oneida, N. Y., in 1867, when Fred W. was five years of age. Here he attended school and when eighteen years of age, or in 1880, the family came to Kansas, locating in Chelsea township, where they bought 320 acres of land. More land was added to the Benson farm, and the estate now consists of 1360 acres, and is jointly owned by Fred W. Benson's widow and his brother, William F. It is located in the Walnut River valley, and consists of the most valuable bottom land in Butler county, and general farming and stock raising is carried on extensively.

Fred W. Benson was married April 14, 1885, to Miss Robie Colgrove, of Terre Haute, Ind., a daughter of William and Mary (Ostrand-er), natives of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Benson were born three children, as follows: Kenneth, married Carrie Darwin, of El Dorado, and they reside at El Dorado; Mrs. Inez Gill, of El Dorado, Kans.; and Harold, died at the age of nineteen.

Fred W. Benson took an active part in the political affairs of Butler county, and in 1904, was elected registrar of deeds of Butler county, and at the expiration of his term, was reelected to succeed himself. His term of office expired in 1908. While Mr. Benson held the office of register of deeds, his wife was his deputy. Fred W. Benson had a broad acquaintance over Butler county, and his kindly manner and many excellent qualities won for him many friends. He was ambitious, and a thorough and capable business man, and belonged to that type of men who succeed in their undertakings by reason of their industry, ability, and definiteness of purpose. His untimely death was not only a loss to his family and friends, but to his county and State. Mrs. Benson resides in El Dorado, where she is well known and has many friends.

**H. L. Songer**, city assessor of El Dorado, is a native son of Butler county and belongs to one of the pioneer families of Rosalia. Mr. Songer was born October 19, 1881, and is a son of M. L. and Sophronia (Goodnight) Songer. M. L. Songer, the father, settled in Butler county, near Rosalia, in 1871, and his widow now resides at Rosalia. M. L. and Sophronia (Goodnight) Songer were the parents of the following children: H. A., farmer, Rosalia, Kans.; Mrs. J. M. Withrow, Englewood, Kans.; Mrs. Harry Dilts, El Dorado, Kans.; Frank, student in the El Dorado High School; and H. L., the subject of this sketch.

H. L. Songer was reared in Butler county, and received a good common school education, after which he taught school for three years in South District, No. 35, and was one of Butler county's successful teachers. He then engaged in the mercantile business at Pontiac where he was postmaster and for two years, was station agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad at that place. In 1913 he removed to El Dorado, in order that his children might have better educational facilities. Here he engaged in the real estate business, and was also interested in the wholesale hay business. On January 13, 1916, he was appointed assessor for the city of E Dorado, by the county commissioners, and at the present time is serving in that capacity.

Mr. Songer was married April 19, 1903, to Miss Jennie Bishop, of Pontiac, a daughter of Elias and Charlotte (Childers) Bishop, the former a native of Iowa, and the latter of Illinois. Elias Bishop was one of the very early pioneers of Butler county. He came here in 1868, at the age of sixteen years, and clerked in the first store in El Dorado. That was at a time when all the goods for his section of the country were hauled overland, with teams from Emporia. Mr. and Mrs. Songer are the parents of the following children: Karl, Merle, and Marvin.

Mr. Songer is one of the progressive young men of Butler county, and has always proven himself efficient and thoroughly reliable in any trust that has been imposed in him. His genial and courteous manner and straightforward methods, have won for him many friends, and his popularity over a broad scope of Butler county is justly merited.

**W. P. Flenner**, one of the oldest veterans of the Civil war, living in Butler county, is living in retirement at El Dorado. Mr. Flenner was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1830, and is therefore in his eighty-seventh year, and is remarkably hale and hearty, and active both in mind and body, for one of his years. He was the only son born to Daniel and Catherine (Morningstar) Flenner, both natives of Pennsylvania. The mother had three children by a former marriage to Archie Richardson, as follows: John; Thomas, and Elizabeth.

During the Civil war, W. P. Flenner served in Company G, Seventy-Sixth regiment, Illinois infantry, enlisting in 1862, and served until after the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge, August 6, 1865. He took part in many historic campaigns and important battles. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, and in the campaigns of that vicinity.

He was also at Jackson, Miss., and with Sherman on his march to the sea, taking part in most of the battles of that campaign, and he also participated in the last battle of the Civil war, which was fought April 9, 1865, at Ft. Blakley, Ala.

After his discharge from the army, he again engaged in the peaceful pursuits of civil life, like thousands of his comrades in arms, and began to forget about the great conflict that had raged for four long years. In May, 1873, he went to Nebraska and proved up on a claim there in 1875. In 1877, Mr. Flenner came to Butler county, Kansas, and located at El Dorado, where he worked at his trade, which was that of a plasterer, and later engaged in farming in El Dorado township, which he carried on successfully until 1908, when he returned to El Dorado, and since that time has been living practically in retirement.

Mr. Flenner was first married to Miss Susan Hofford, of Berlin, Pa., and the following children were born to that union: Ida, deceased; Mattie, deceased; Arizona, Ft. Worth, Texas; Grace, deceased; Mary, El Dorado, Kans.; Charles, deceased; Walter, Pawhuska, Okla., and John C., deceased. In 1888, Mr. Flenner married Mrs. Jennie Ruddick, who came to Kansas with her former husband, Mr. Ruddick, in 1870. They drove to this county in a covered wagon. Two children were born to Mrs. Flenner by her former marriage: Frank and Elizabeth Ruddick, both deceased. Frank died in El Dorado in May, 1911, and Elizabeth, who for eleven years was a missionary in India, died in June, 1915.

Mrs. Flenner is a deeply religious woman, and since coming to this county, has been active in church, temperance and Sunday school work. She was a teacher of a Sunday school class for over thirty years, and is a woman of unusual mental attainments. Mr. Flenner is a Socialist, and admits without boasting that, in the matter of national politics, since 1856 he has always been on the losing side. He is the oldest Civil war veteran now living in Butler county, except Major Milks, of El Dorado. Mr. Flenner is a great reader, and has always kept himself well informed on questions of public importance, and is one of Butler county's grand old men.

**John Houser**, of El Dorado, came to this county in 1870 and conducted one of the first blacksmith shops in Butler county. He was born in Germany in 1849, a son of Jacob H. and Elizabeth Houser, who were the parents of five children, two of whom are living: John, the subject of this sketch, and Jacob, Ann Harbor, Mich. John Houser was three years of age when his parents immigrated to America and settled in Ann Arbor, Mich., where the father died in 1858, and the mother departed this life in 1871.

John Houser came to Butler county in 1870, and located in the old town of Chelsea, where he opened a blacksmith shop. When he came here, he was without funds, but he was a reliable young man, and won the confidence of some of the early settlers with whom he became ac-

quainted, and with their financial support, he was enabled to engage in business. John M. Rayburn furnished him with a shop, a Mr. McQuarter furnished him with an old set of blacksmith tools, J. B. Parsons loaned him \$7 in cash, and Mr. Findley, a grocer, stood good for the supplies which he needed and which were purchased at Emporia, and Mr. Findley also went to Emporia and hauled the supplies from there to Chelsea, free of charge. Chelsea, at that time, was quite a little settlement of perhaps twelve or fifteen buildings. Rollin Lakin was the manager of James McQuarter's store. Mr. Beale ran a dry goods and clothing store, and A. M. Farnum conducted a shoe shop. J. B. Shough was the hotel keeper, and Dr. Zimmerman ran the drug store. There was no saloon at first, but later this ever-present frontier industry was represented by Frost and Smith. They also sold groceries and did some gambling as a side line. Mr. Houser tells a story, of a green gawky tenderfoot who rode into the frontier village on a mule one day, and stood around watching some of the local talent who were engaged in a game of poker, and finally asked if they wouldn't let him play. He looked as though he had more money than knowledge of gambling, and was promptly dealt a hand, and bid pretty strong the first time, and the local boys laid down, but the tenderfoot in reality held a poorer hand, but his bluff worked. The next hand, he bid high again, and the fellows didn't propose to be bluffed again, and they stayed. The boy wasn't bluffing that time, but held the cards, and raked in the money, went out and got on his mule, and neither the boy, the mule, nor the money has been seen since, so far as the Chelsea gamblers know. Before the fellow left he called the fellows he had fleeced to the bar and asked the barkeeper if he had any "soft drinks, lemonade, or pop," as he thought they couldn't stand anything stronger.

Chelsea was on the old stage route from Cottonwood Falls which was later extended from Emporia to Winfield, and the fare was ten cents a mile. In the spring of 1870, Mr. House and another man started to walk from Emporia to El Dorado, but upon reaching the Cottonwood river, that stream was so high that they were unable to cross. However, they found lodging with a Quaker who lived near the river, and the next day they got a ride with some movers who were on their way to Chelsea.

Mr. Houser was engaged in blacksmithing for twenty years, at Chelsea. He then bought forty acres of land which he later sold, and bought 320 acres two and a half miles east of Chelsea. He moved his shop to that place, and for thirteen years carried on farming in connection with blacksmithing. He then sold that place and bought 200 acres, a mile south of Chelsea, which he sold in 1909, and removed to El Dorado, where he bought eight and a half acres adjoining the city limits on the northwest, where he has a fancy fruit farm, with several apple trees, peaches, cherries, blackberries, and he is also quite an alfalfa raiser.

Mr. Houser was married in 1881, to Miss Kate Estes, a native of

Kentucky, born in 1851. She is a daughter of Lewis and Katie (Wisdom) Estes. Mr. and Mrs. Houser have no children of their own, but they have reared two, Alice Zuell, who was an orphan, and Nettie Rogalskey. The former married W. J. Case and lives in Chelsea township, and Nettie married Chester Moon, and lives in Oakwood, Okla. Mr. and Mrs. Houser have a cosy home on their place near El Dorado, and are well fixed to enjoy the comforts of life.

**C. C. Jamison**, a prominent contractor and builder of El Dorado, is a native of Indiana. He was born in White county, in 1859, and is a son of William and Eliza (Gill) Jamison. They were the parents of ten children, three of whom are now living, as follows: Mrs. William Shriver, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Joseph Brown, Braman, Okla., and C. C., the subject of this sketch.

C. C. Jamison was reared in Indiana, and educated at LaFayette, Ind., and in 1875, came to Kansas with his parents, who first located at Hutchinson. They remained there, however, but a short time, and in the spring of 1876, went to Pratt county, where the father homesteaded a claim, and later sold his interest in it and came to Butler county in 1879, locating at Augusta. The father was a mechanic, and worked on the construction of the Augusta opera house and the Ettison building, and several other buildings in Augusta. He died in Hobart, Okla., in 1903, and his wife died at El Dorado, in 1885.

C. C. Jamison began his career as a contractor and builder when he was about twenty-four years of age, his first work being a forty foot stone arch bridge, across Dry Creek, between Bruno and Augusta. Prior to this he had superintended the construction of the electric light building at El Dorado. Among the most important works that Mr. Jamison has done as a contractor and builder are the following: A forty foot stone arch bridge, one mile west of Latham; the piers for the iron bridge across the Walnut at Augusta; a thirty-six foot stone arch bridge, in Bruno township; a thirty-six foot stone arch bridge, across Hickory creek, near Leon; a thirty-six foot stone arch bridge in Chelsea township, near Chelsea; a thirty foot stone arch bridge at Brainard; and a thirty foot stone arch bridge, across Turkey creek, five miles south of El Dorado. Mr. Jamison has probably built about fifty county bridges in Butler county, and 200 township bridges.

Mr. Jamison was married April 7, 1892, to Miss Lucy Rayburn, of El Dorado, a daughter of William K. and Amanda (Dungan) Rayburn. The Rayburn family came to Butler county in 1885, and settled in El Dorado, remaining here three years when the father bought the Chesney ranch of 300 acres, where he lived until his death in 1903. The mother died in 1909. They were the parents of the following children: Calvin, an attorney, Bloomington, Ill.; Edgar, farmer, Towanda, Ill.; James, superintendent of the State asylum farm at Topeka, and has held that position for the past twenty years; Mrs. Ada Crawford, Fairbury, Ill., and Lucy, wife of C. C. Jamison, the subject of this sketch.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jamison have been born three children, as follows: Rayburn, associated with his father in the contracting and building business, married Hazel Herron, of Belle Plaine, Kans., December 25, 1915; Mary, a student in the El Dorado schools, and Sarah, also a student in the El Dorado schools.

Although a young man, Mr. Jamison has seen frontier conditions on the plains of Kansas, which has never been the privilege of many of the present generation to witness. When the Jamison family went to Pratt county, that section of the country was one broad expanse of prairie, with few settlements, and the buffalo was still to be found there, although not in large herds. Mr. Jamison has seen as many as nine in one herd.

**William Gilmore**, of El Dorado, one of Butler county's largest land owners, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Harrison county, January 26, 1843, and is a son of Nathaniel and Mary (Craig) Gilmore, both natives of Ohio, the former born in 1801, and the latter in 1808, near Cadiz. They were the parents of twelve children, as follows: Samuel, died at the age of twenty-one, of cholera, at New Madrid, Mo.; Eliza Jane, married Alexander M. Shaver in 1865, who died two years after; she died in 1868; John, resides at Webster City, Iowa, aged eighty-three years; Rachel, died at the age of three years; Craig, was killed in an automobile accident at Gibson City, Ill., in 1910; Sarah, died near Le Roy, Ill., in 1852; Albert, living at Gibson City, Ill.; William, the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann, died in 1857, at Le Roy, Ill., at the age of twelve; Johnson, died at Le Roy, Ill., in 1861, aged fifteen; one died in infancy, and Ephraim, resides near Lee, Ind.

William Gilmore was educated in the public schools of Illinois, and attended the Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, Ill., for two years. When he was twenty-two years of age, he was engaged in farming and stock raising in Illinois, and was interested in that business there from 1865 until 1893. The Gilmore family were interested in farming and stock raising together, and had about 3,000 acres of land in Ford, McLean and Champaign counties, Illinois. In 1893, Mr. Gilmore came to Butler county, Kansas, and bought 1,920 acres of land in Chelsea township, where he engaged in farming and the cattle business. About 500 acres of this ranch are now under cultivation, and he also owns 800 acres of very valuable land in Osceola county, Iowa, and is a very wealthy man. His fine, modern home is located on a six acre tract of land adjoining El Dorado on the west.

Mr. Gilmore was married in Ford county, Illinois, in 1879, to Miss Julia I. Bunch, of Edwards county, Illinois. She is a daughter of William and Mary (Clark) Bunch, pioneers of Edwards county, Illinois, both now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore have been born four children, all of whom are living, as follows: Mary Etta, unmarried, resides with her parents; Walter Ellsworth, resides on the home farm in Chelsea township; Carrie Harrison, and Benjamin Harrison, twins.

Mr. Gilmore is able to trace his family history back many generations, and has in his possession a family chart of the Craig family, his mother's ancestry, which gives a history of that family, beginning with John Craig, who was born in Ireland in 1775 and died in 1825. His wife bore the maiden name of Betsy Johnson, and was born in 1782, and died in 1864, at the age of eighty-two. Mr. Gilmore is one of Butler county's most substantial men, and the Gilmore family is one of the leading families of Butler county.

**J. M. McAnally**, now deceased, was a prominent merchant of El Dorado, and during his career, was a leading factor in the commercial life of this city. Mr. McAnally was born at Nicholsville, Claremont county, Ohio, June 17, 1845. He was left an orphan at the tender age of five years, and was reared in Ohio and educated in the public schools there. When he was about twenty-five years of age he removed to Champaign county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming until 1878. He then came to Kansas, locating in Morris county, and in 1880, he came to Butler county, and located at El Dorado. Soon after coming here, he became associated with C. O. Beardsley, in the grocery business, and later he purchased the Musselman furniture stock, which was located in a small frame building on Main street. Soon after buying this stock, he sold a half interest in it to J. M. Noble, and the firm became McAnally & Noble, and they engaged in the furniture business on south Main street, and this partnership continued for twenty-eight years. They carried on an extensive furniture business in a two-story building on south Main street. Mr. McAnally died June 4, 1910, and the partnership was continued with Mrs. McAnally as the successor to her husband's interest, for three years, or until the death of Mr. Noble. All these years, the firm of McAnally & Noble was the leading furniture dealers of El Dorado.

Mr. McAnally was first married in Ohio, and shortly afterwards removed to Illinois where his wife died a few years later. Three children were born to them. His second wife was Miss Dora Jackson, who is also deceased. On October 4, 1904, Mr. McAnally was married to Miss Clara E. Hiatt, a daughter of Eli W. and Guinanna (Pore) Hiatt, the former a native of Bellefontaine, Logan county, Ohio, and the latter of Indiana.

In early life, Mr. McAnally was converted and united with the Presbyterian church. After his marriage to Miss Clara E. Hiatt, he attended the Baptist church, which was the denomination of her church, and Mr. McAnally became much interested in the affairs of this church. He served as a member of the building committee in the erection of the new edifice in El Dorado, and proved to be a valuable aid in a financial way. After the dedication of the new church, he united with the class, and was faithful to the end. Almost his last word was a Christian message to his wife and friends. At that time he called his pastor to his bedside and said, "I want you to tell all, that since last Saturday, I have had a new

vision of the spiritual life, and a larger vision of the love of my friends, not only during this sickness, but through all my life. I want to thank all of them. My spiritual condition is perfectly satisfactory. Everything is all right. I confront the change with faith, confidence, and peace." Mr. McAnally's death exemplified his life. He died as he had lived, a Christian.

Mr. McAnally was also prominent in lodge circles. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, El Dorado Lodge, No. 74, and had been a member of that order for over forty years, and passed all the chairs. He joined the lodge at Nicholasville, Ohio, and was a member up to the time of his death. He was also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. His widow, Mrs. Clara McAnally, resides on North Atchison street, El Dorado, where she has a modern and comfortable home. She is an estimable lady, of a high standard of culture, and has many friends. Majorie McAnally is an adopted daughter of Mrs. McAnally, adopted in 1914. She is attending the graded school at El Dorado.

**Daniel Weidman**, a Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer, is a native of Columbia township, Warren county, New Jersey. He was born in 1844, and is a son of Philip K. and Susan (Ryman) Weidman. The father was born in Easton, Pa., in 1803, and the mother was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1812. They were the parents of the following children: Thomas; Mrs. Clara Wait; Mrs. Lymell Thompson, and Daniel, the subject of this sketch. The Weidman family went from Pennsylvania to Iowa in 1856, where the father died in 1862, and the mother in 1872, in Fremont county.

Daniel Weidman was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and the Waverly Academy, Waverly, Pa., and on July 30, 1863, he enlisted at Red Oak, Iowa, in Company A, Eighth regiment, Iowa cavalry, and was mustered into the United States service. His regiment took part in the Atlanta campaign, and the battles of Nashville, Tenn., and Waterloo, Ala., and a number of other engagements and skirmishes. Mr. Weidman had some very narrow escapes during his military career, but was never wounded. He was doing picket duty on the banks of the river, when General Hood attacked the Union lines and sent his first boat load of men across the Tennessee, at about the point where Mr. Weidman was stationed. Mr. Weidman says that he never ran so fast in all his life as he did that afternoon, to get away from the Confederates. During his hurry he threw his coat away, which he needed that night. The same night that the Union forces were attacked by Hood, and withdrew, they were reinforced by General Hatch, and returned to the fight which lasted a number of days and ended at Nashville. Mr. Weidman was on a raid in Alabama which lasted sixty-two days. At the same time, his horse was shot from under him, and fell on one of his feet which was in the stirrup, and in order to release himself, Mr. Weidman pulled his foot out of his boot, and left



the boot under the horse, and ran about fifty yards to where there was another horse which he mounted, and succeeded in escaping. The Confederates were so close on his trail at that time that they called to him to surrender, but he told them that he could not see it in that way, and succeeded in getting away. His army life was filled with adventure from start to finish, and after the war, and at the close of a brilliant, military career, he was mustered out of the United States service at Macon, Ga., in August 13, 1865.

At the close of the war, Mr. Weidman returned to Red Oak, Iowa, where he remained until 1869, when he came to Butler county and settled on Turkey creek about six miles south of El Dorado. Here he bought a quarter section of land of William Towsley. After remaining on this place about a year, Mr. Weidman sold it to Betts and Fraiser, and located in El Dorado. In 1873 he homesteaded a quarter section on the Whitewater in Fairview township. After remaining there fourteen years, he returned to El Dorado and engaged in the hardware and implement business with Rogers Bros. and Conner, on the corner of Main and Central. A year later he sold his interest in that concern, and worked in the hardware store of C. L. Turner, about two years. He then entered the employ of the McCormack Harvesting Machine Company, and was on the road for that company for five years. He then worked for the Champion Machine Company for five years, in a similar capacity, when he entered the employ of the Altman-Miller Company, and remained with them about one year. He then moved to a farm, and after remaining three years, returned to El Dorado and has since rented his farm, and resided in El Dorado.

Mr. Weidman was married June 19, 1867, to Miss Emazetta Gordon, of Pleasant Hill, Mo. She is a daughter of George A. and Sarah E. (Dunn) Gordon, natives of Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. The father now resides at Eureka, Kans., at the advanced age of ninety-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were the parents of the following children: Heustes, was killed while serving in the Union army during the Civil war at Dallas, Ga.; Walter, died at Memphis, Tenn., while serving in the Union army during the Civil war; Hypatia, lives at Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Alice Kallb, Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. Robert Johnson, Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Emma Badger, Topeka, Kans.; Laura, resides at Eureka, Kans., and Emazetta, wife of Mr. Weidman, the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. Weidman have been born six children, as follows: George, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mrs. Ella Hurtt, Wichita, Kans.; Harry, a grocer, of El Dorado; Earl, Salt Lake City, Utah; Ray, El Dorado, Kans., and Frank, Western Union telegraph operator, Tulsa, Okla.

When Mr. Weidman came to Butler county, forty-seven years ago, this country was in a wild and unbroken state, and scarcely any of the improvements or permanent settlements had been made at that time. The native wild animals of the plains were in abundance, and in 1869,

Mr. Weidman killed six deer south of El Dorado, and in 1870, 1871 and 1872, he went buffalo hunting each year, and returned with plenty of buffalo meat. There were lots of Indians in this section when they first came here, and they frequently called at the Weidman home, usually begging for chickens, and at one time, the Weidman family had an Indian girl in their employ as a domestic. Mr. Weidman planted the first cottonwood trees in El Dorado. He also planted the first apple trees in the county for Dr. White, and received twenty-five cents for setting out each tree, and the specifications required that he dig holes three feet deep and three feet in diameter for each tree, and set the tree in rich soil hauled from the timber. He made some money at this, but it was hard work. Mr. Weidman remembers many early day instances, and taking his career all together, both as a soldier and as a pioneer, he has had his share of interesting experiences, including many hardships and privations.

**D. W. Ow**, one of the leading merchants of El Dorado, has conducted a grocery store here for over thirty-three years, and Mr. Ow's store is not only one of the old established mercantile institutions of the city, but is strictly in keeping with all modern improvements and methods, and he, perhaps, carries the largest exclusive grocery stock in Butler county.

Mr. Ow was born in Lancaster, Mo., in 1858, and is a son of John and Nancy (Grimes) Ow, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Missouri. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Mrs. Anne Phares, deceased; Mrs. Temperance Parsons, resides at Los Angeles; Edward, Los Angeles; Ray, Los Angeles; and D. W., the subject of this sketch.

D. W. Ow came to Kansas with his father and other members of the family in 1875. They settled in Benton township, Butler county, about a mile east of the town of Benton. Here the father bought 160 acres of land from Jesse Parsons, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising until 1882, when the father removed to California. About this time D. W., the subject of this sketch, came to El Dorado, and engaged in the grocery business in partnership with Al Conley, under the firm name of Conley & Ow. Their store was located at 116 West Central avenue, two doors west of where Mr. Ow's place of business is now located. In 1894, Mr. Ow purchased his partner's interest in the business, and moved to his present location, and since that time, has been the sole owner and proprietor of the business, which has developed from a humble beginning to its present proportions.

Mr. Ow was married in 1881, to Miss Lou McCune, of Benton, Kans. She is a daughter of W. H. McCune, who was a prominent farmer of Benton township, and was accidentally killed in an automobile accident in El Dorado, at the age of seventy-six. His wife died in Murdock township. To Mr. and Mrs. Ow have been born the following children: Mrs. O. M. Burkholder, St. Louis, Mo.; Frankie, resides at home; Elsie,

bookkeeper in her father's store, resides at home; Lec, bookkeeper in the bank of Oklahoma, at Beaver, Okla.; Charles, died at the age of twenty-one, in El Dorado, Kans.; Birdine and Mildred, students in the El Dorado High School. The Ow family is well known and prominent in Butler county, and Mr. Ow is one of El Dorado's most substantial, as well as most progressive business men.

**James Atkins**, a Civil war veteran, and one of the very early pioneers of Butler county, who has spent nearly a half century of his life in this county, is a native of Michigan. He was born in St. Clair county, in 1844, and is a son of Alexander and Eliza (Lewis) Atkins, the former a native of Scotland, and the latter of Connecticut. They were the parents of eleven children.

James Atkins was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of Michigan, and when the Civil war broke out, he was just reaching man's estate, and when he was twenty years of age, he enlisted in company A, First regiment, Michigan cavalry. He served in the Civil war, and when that great struggle was ended, he was sent west in a campaign against hostile Indians in Colorado and Utah, and received his honorable discharge and was mustered out of service at Salt Lake City, Utah, March 10, 1866. He then went to Helena, Mont., remaining there from April to August of 1866, when he came down the Missouri river from Ft. Benton to Omaha, on a flat boat. He was then employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company about a year, and in 1867, came to El Dorado.

After coming to Butler county, Mr. Atkins bought a quarter section of land in El Dorado township, and he still owns that place. He has added more land to his original holdings, from time to time, and now owns a large acreage in Butler county. He lived in a dugout on his place the first year, and engaged in the cattle business and general farming in which he has been very successful. When Mr. Atkins came to this county, there were few settlers here, no railroads in this section of the State, and trading points were a long distance away. When Mr. Atkins first came here, he went to Lawrence for his supplies, and later to Emporia, and the first cattle that he marketed, he drove across the country to Kansas City. He drove the first bunch of cattle from Baxter Springs, Kans.

Mr. Atkins was here at the time that the cyclone devastated El Dorado, when Dr. McKenzie's child was killed, and he was also here during the big June flood of 1869, when Johnson, his wife and adopted daughter were drowned in the West Branch of the Walnut river. A man named Hobbs spent the night on the roof of their cabin, and was rescued in the morning.

Mr. Atkins was married in 1900, to Miss Eva Pool, of El Dorado. Mrs. Atkins was a daughter of Anthony Pool, and Matilda (Bennet) Pool, natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania, who with their daughter came from Kentucky in 1886 to Butler county. Mrs. Atkins is

one of a family of five children. Anthony Pool Atkins, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, was born near El Dorado in 1902.

Mr. Atkins recalls some of the old settlers who were here in 1867, at the beginning of Butler county, among whom were Henry Martin, Archibald Ellis, Mrs. Cowley, Jerry Connor, Nathaniel Thompson, Croft, Hobbs and Donaldson. Mr. Atkins has seen Butler county develop almost from the beginning. Mr. Atkins has fought with the bravest in the "winning of the wilderness" and to such men as he, men with courage and stick-to-it-iveness, Butler county owes its development. His several farms are equipped with good dwellings, barns, etc., and he owns and occupies with his family one of El Dorado's beautiful modern homes.

Mr. Atkins has a keen sense of humor and recalls with pleasure many incidents of his pioneer life, but he never regrets the hardships of the early days. He still lives a busy, quiet, happy life, enjoying the fruits of his labors and esteem of his fellow citizens.

**Lester F. Winn**, a progressive young farmer and stockman of Pleasant township, is a native of Kansas. He was born at Udall, Kans., November 14, 1897, and is a son of Samuel and Mary E. (Cox) Winn. Two children were born to Samuel and Mary E. Winn: Lester F., the subject of this sketch, and Roscoe, who resides at Rose Hill. By a former marriage, the father had four children: George, Anadarko, Okla.; Coleman, Anadarko, Okla.; Mrs. Pearl Davey, Mulvane, Kans.; and Myrtle Davey, Mulvane, Kans.

Lester F. Winn was reared at Rose Hill and educated in the public schools, and since he was fourteen years of age, has been actively engaged in farming, having had charge of the Eli Cox farm. He carries on general farming and stock raising and specializes in Holstein cattle.

Mr. Winn was united in marriage at Rose Hill, Kans., March 8, 1916, to Miss Genevieve Cox, of Rose Hill, a daughter of Elvin Cox, of Richland township. Although a young man, Mr. Winn is one of the substantial citizens of Pleasant township, and has won a reputation for getting results in whatever he undertakes. He is industrious and ambitious and his future bids fair to be a successful career.

**Eli Cox**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer, a record of whose career is well worthy of a place on the pages of a work of this character. Mr. Cox was born in North Carolina, March 23, 1824, and died in Richland township, December 4, 1893. He was a son of Steven and Hannah Cox, natives of North Carolina.

Eli Cox grew to manhood in his native State and on March 21, 1845, he was united in marriage to Miss Emily Stinson, a native of North Carolina, born December 21, 1827, a daughter of Robert and Mary Stinson. Five children were born to this union, as follows: George W., deceased; John C., resides in North Carolina; Thomas M.; Hannah L.; and Andrew J., all of whom are deceased. The wife and mother died while Mr. Cox still lived in North Carolina, and he married for his second wife, Mary Ann Pickett, a native of North Carolina, and a daughter

of Jeremiah and Hanna Picket, also natives of North Carolina. To this union were born the following children: Mrs. Emily F. Ball, Richland township; Mrs. Lizzie D. Getchel, resides in Washington; Homer F., a minister in the Friends church, and resides in Montana; Jaben C., Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Marietta Canfield, Derby, Kans.; and Jeremiah C., Douglass, Kans.

Eli Cox and family left Greensborough, North Carolina, February 21, 1871, with Kansas as their destination, coming by rail. They reached Lawrence on February 26, and from there went to Lexington township, Johnson county, where they remained one year. In March, 1872, they came to Richland township, Butler county, where the father homesteaded 160 acres of land, where he made his home until the time of his death. He was an industrious, God-fearing man, and a good citizen. He and his wife were members of the Friends church, and among the charter members of that organization of Butler county.

**H. M. Logan**, a pioneer merchant of El Dorado, who still conducts one of the leading mercantile establishments of that city, is a native of Ohio. He was born at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, in 1850, and is a son of J. M. and Elizabeth (Hixon) Logan, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. They were the parents of eight children, three of whom are living, as follows: Joseph, Champaign, Ill.; Martha, married Tyne Arnett, and resides at Wayne City, Ill.; and H. M., the subject of this sketch.

H. M. Logan was reared and educated at Gosport, Ind. His mother died when he was twelve years of age, and in 1867, when he was about sixteen years old, he came to Kansas with his two brothers. They first located at Humboldt, and soon after arriving there, H. M. obtained a position as a clerk in G. Y. Smith's dry goods store, remaining there four years. In 1871, he came to El Dorado, and after clerking a few years, engaged in the mercantile business for himself, and still continues in the mercantile business.

Mr. Logan was married in 1879 to Miss Flora Morgan, of El Dorado, Kans. Her father came to Kansas in 1865, and opened the first store in Lyon county, where Hartford is now located. He conducted his store there until 1873, when he came to Butler county, locating at Douglass, where he died. After the father's death, the Morgan family removed to El Dorado, where Mrs. Logan completed her education. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Logan, as follows: Olive, married Eldon Jarnagin, and they reside at Miami, Texas; Basil H., married Florence Wellwood, and resides in Wichita, Kans.; and Bruce, is associated with his father in the store at El Dorado.

Mr. Logan is of a literary turn of mind, and notwithstanding his busy mercantile career, he has found time to write some very clever articles, some of which, in matters of merit, are far above the average. In 1912, Mr. Logan visited his old home at Gosport, Ind., and was requested to write the story of his trip, and in this article he gives his



H. M. LOGAN



MRS. H. M. LOGAN



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. H. M. LOGAN, EI DORADO, KANSAS

impressions of the old home in such a masterful way that this little story is, of itself, a classic. He has published a little volume of his writings, which contain the following articles, all of which are very ably written, and it's a great treat to read this little pamphlet from cover to cover: "A Call on the Phone"; "Joy Ride Through the Big Wheat"; "Boosters' Trip for the Kansas Commercial Club"; "My First Trip to Arkansas"; "A Visit To the Old Home"; and "First Night in El Dorado." The last named article will be found reproduced, elsewhere in this work, by permission of Mr. Logan. The little volume, containing Mr. Logan's writings can be found in the El Dorado public library.

Mr. Logan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is treasurer of the local lodge, and the Anti-Horse Thief Association, of which he is president. Mr. Logan has taken a keen interest in the welfare and progress of El Dorado, where his home and interests have been for forty-five years. While a member of the city council, Mr. Logan was active in behalf of establishing the library here, and has always liberally supported every enterprise that has had for its object the betterment or upbuilding of his community. Mr. Logan is a Republican, but has never aspired to political honors, although he has been active in political affairs, and frequently been a delegate to county and State conventions. He has served on the local school board for a number of years and has been a member of the city council, as above stated.

**W. S. Mitchell**, of Pleasant township, is a sturdy Butler county pioneer who has spent over forty-six years of his life in this county. Mr. Mitchell was born in Stokes county, North Carolina, in 1845. He is a son of Moses and Nancy (Meadows) Mitchell, both natives of North Carolina. They were the parents of twelve children. W. S. Mitchell attended school in his native State and in the State of Georgia, and when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in the Sixth Georgia cavalry, and served under that great military genius, Gen. Joseph Wheeler, and every one familiar with the history of the campaigns of the Civil war knows of the activities and the fighting spirit of General Wheeler's division. Mr. Mitchell remained in the service in the Confederate army until the close of the war, and was with his command at Raleigh, N. C., when General Wheeler surrendered, and thus the struggle in behalf of the lost cause ended.

In October, 1866, Mr. Mitchell came to Kansas and settled in the vicinity of Hartford, Lyon county. He was engaged in farming there until 1870, when he came to Butler county and preempted 160 acres of land in Richland township. Four years later he sold this place and bought eighty acres in Pleasant township, which has since been his home. He now owns 280 acres in Pleasant township, and is one of the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of that fertile farming district.

While Mr. Mitchell, like other pioneers of the county, experienced many discouraging features in the early days, he has on the whole been successful, and, today, is one of the substantial citizens of the county, who may properly be called well-fixed, or in easy circumstances. When the grasshoppers devastated the country in 1874, Mr. Mitchell did not sit down and bemoan the loss of his crops, but he went to work and did something. He went to Arkansas that winter and worked at whatever he could find to do, while his wife remained on the home place, and cared for the children, and they managed to get along. When Mr. Mitchell first settled in Butler county, Emporia was the nearest railroad point, and all their supplies had to be hauled from there.

Mr. Mitchell was married in 1866 to Miss Elizabeth Jones, of Union county, Georgia, a daughter of Hampton Jones. The Jones family also came to Kansas in 1866, where they remained until 1870, when they, too, came to Butler county, settling in Richland township. The southern part of Butler county was wild, unbroken and sparsely settled when the Mitchell and Jones families came here. The native game and wild animals of the prairie were still in abundance there, and even Indians, some tame and others wild, frequently strolled across the country.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell have been born the following children: Mrs. Elvira Henshie, Sumner county, Kansas; Robert, Pu Allet, Wash.; Mrs. Martha Burns, Argonia, Kans.; Arthur, who lives on the home place, and three children are deceased.

**H. F. Hawks**, a prosperous Butler county farmer and stockman, is a representative agriculturist of Pleasant township, where he owns and operates one of the best farms in that part of the county. Mr. Hawks was born in Kent county, England, in 1860, a son of Charles and Jane (Streator) Hawks, both natives of the mother country. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Mrs. Gertrude McFadden, Ringwood, Okla.; Mrs. Veleria Young, Wellington, Kans.; Roland Victor, Joliet, Ill.; W. C. Longton, Kans.; Mrs. Sadie Finney, Rock, Kans.; F. S. Wichita, Kans.; S. C., Wichita, Kans.; E. A., St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Emma Ellis, Tulsa, Okla.; and H. F., the subject of this sketch.

The Hawks family came to Butler county from Illinois in 1873 and the father preempted a quarter section of land, the northeast quarter of section 26, Pleasant township. He died in 1914, and the mother resides in Wichita with one of her sons.

H. F. Hawks was educated in the early day subscription schools, there being no public schools here when the family located in Pleasant township. He obtained a fair education in the early days and has been a student of men and affairs all his life, and today is one of the well posted men of Butler county. Mr. Hawks spent a number of years in western Oklahoma and returned to Butler county and bought 360 acres of land in Pleasant township where he has since been engaged in farming and stock raising. He is one of the very successful stockmen of Butler county and makes a specialty of raising Holstein cattle. He also raises



large numbers of mules and sheep. He has also been unusually successful as a cattle feeder, a business which he has found very profitable. He also conducts quite an extensive dairy in connection with his general farming and stock business.

Mr. Hawks was united in marriage in October, 1885, with Miss Lillian Barnes, of Leavenworth, Kans. Her father, Andrew Barnes, was a pioneer settler of Leavenworth county. He was a Free State man and came to Kansas in the territorial days, from Connecticut to help make Kansas a free State. He settled in Leavenworth county in 1858, driving an ox team across the country from his New England home. Mrs. Hawks is one of the following children born to her parents: Mrs. Susan Parsons, Leavenworth, Kans.; Mrs. Rose Pattee, Tongonoxie, Kans.; Mrs. Holleaux, Leavenworth, Kans.; O. J. Barnes, Leavenworth, Kans.; Mrs. Daisy Cooper, Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. Hawks.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hawks have been born the following children: Gertrude Pitts, Rose Hill, Kans.; Ermine Jones, deceased; A. S., at home; R. C., Pleasant township; and Alice, a graduate of the Rose Hill High School.

Coming to Butler county when he was a boy, gives Mr. Hawks the distinction of being an old settler of this county while he is still comparatively a young man. He came here at an age when new surroundings and new conditions made lasting impressions on his mind. He recalls the primitive conditions just as they were and talks interestingly of the early days when he was a boy in his teens, and Butler county was also young. Among the old timers who were here in the early days, Mr. Hawks recalls Dunlap, Piersol, Tom McKnight, whose wife is now living at Rose Hill, John Scott, Henry Staley, Nate Hyde and John Kibby, nearly all, if not all, have long since passed to their reward. Mr. Hawk has in his possession some interesting relics of the early days, among which is a picture of the dugout which was the first home of the Hawks family in Kansas.

**H. D. Olmstead**, a pioneer and prominent farmer and dairyman of Rose Hill, Kans., was born in Hardin, Alabama county, Iowa, in 1853. He is a son of Joshua and Mary (Walker) Olmstead, natives of Jackson county, Missouri. They were the parents of thirteen children, as follows: James Henry, Modale, Iowa; Leonard J., Perry, Okla.; Walter R., Liberal, Kans.; Frank, died at Douglass, Kans., in 1910; Mrs. Sol Wise, died in Kansas City, Mo., about 1882; Mrs. Percis Wise, widow of Fred Wise, deceased, is living in California; Mrs. Maria Pulver, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Flora Gayman—her husband died in Idaho; he was a pioneer of Butler county and took a claim, now known as the Dorr Carrollton farm on Pole Cat creek; Lottie May Sowers of Fort Sill, Okla.; Mrs. John Strock, deceased. Mr. Strock took a claim on Eight Mile, one mile west of Douglass; two children died in infancy; and H. D., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Olmstead came with his father from Minnesota to Lyon

county, Kansas, with an ox team in July, 1866, and to Butler county in the spring of 1869. The father came in the fall of 1869, and the family followed, that winter. He took a claim two miles south of Douglass, now known as the old Dunn farm, and built the old water mill on the Walnut river. He died in 1875. He operated the mill until a short time before his death, and also ran a sawmill. His wife died in 1895. She was skilled in caring for the sick and took the place of a family doctor among the early pioneers, often riding many miles across the prairie, ministering to the sick.

H. D., the subject of this sketch, has lived in Butler county since 1866, with the exception of four years. Mr. Olmstead was married in 1866, with the exception of four years. Mr. Olmstead was married to Miss Jennie Olfrey, who died a short time after her marriage. In 1880 he married Miss Florence Holcomb. She was elected county superintendent of public instruction, and died shortly before her term of office expired in December, 1892. To this union were born three children: Harold LeRoy, a minister of the Christian church at Gallatin, Tenn.; Hershel Remisses, deceased, and Sarah Florence, who married C. F. Alley and lives at Derby, Kans. In 1893 Mr. Olmstead married Mrs. Ella Cottman. She had one child by a former marriage, Oscar Cottman, assistant cashier of the Douglass State Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead have four children: H. Deloss, farmer, Sedgwick county; Beulah Luella Reheis, Larned, Kans., a graduate of the Douglass High School, also a teacher for one year; Sydney Smith, a sophomore of the Douglass High School, and Joseph Emerson, freshman in the Douglass High School.

Mr. Olmstead has followed general farming all his life, and, at present, is engaged in the dairy business, milking eighteen cows. He owns a splendid farm of 240 acres in Pleasant township. His place is well improved with a stone house, silo, large barn and a dairy barn. He has thirty-eight acres of alfalfa, and his farm is leased for gas and oil.

Mr. Olmstead is familiar with the early days and remembers the following old timers of 1869 and 1870, in and around Douglass. Joe Douglass ran the first store, for whom the town was named; Uncle Johnny Long, John Stanley, old man Quimby, John Martin, the first blacksmith of Douglass, Dad Prindle, Mart Guffet, Birney and John Dunn, Wall Thorpe, old man Uhl and Martin, the Dunn brothers, one of whom was shot by Indians, with an arrow, and killed south of Douglass, about 1868. Mr. Olmstead has seen the arrow with which Dunn was killed, and which is still in the possession of the Dunn family.

Mr. Olmstead talks interestingly of early days and remembers of a dance at Birney Dunn's, south of Douglass, where plenty of whiskey was on tap. One man took up a board in the floor during the dance, and one of the dancers fell into the hole and broke his leg, but the incident did not break up the dance, only insofar as the fellow with the broken leg was concerned.

**F. G. McWilliams** is a well known successful farmer and stockman of Pleasant township. He was born in Union county, Ohio, in 1861, and is a son of Robert and Rebecca (Ross) McWilliams, natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. They were the parents of the following children: Ross, Derby, Kans.; Mrs. Ada Sutton, of Wichita, Kans., whose husband, W. M. Sutton, was murdered October 9, 1915, by robbers in his store at Wichita; Etta, Derby, Kans.; Mrs. Alice Berger, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Ella Robbins, San Antonio, Tex.; Mrs. Josie Brown, Wichita, Kans.

F. G. McWilliams came to Kansas with his parents in 1878, and they located in Sedgwick county, near the town of El Paso, which is now Derby. The father died there in 1895. Mr. McWilliams remained in Sedgwick county until 1902 when he came to Butler county and bought a quarter section of land in Pleasant township, for which he paid \$10 an acre. The place was improved very little, although there was a stone house erected on it when Mr. McWilliams bought it. Since locating here Mr. McWilliams has been engaged in farming and general stock raising, in which he has met with very satisfactory results in a financial way. When he began he had very little capital and went in debt for most of the purchase price of his place, but by industry and economy, he has become one of the prosperous men of his community.

Mr. McWilliams was married in 1890 at Rose Hill, Kans., to Miss Anna Harris, of Richland township. She is a daughter of Walter J. Harris who came to Butler county, locating in Richland township in 1879. He was a hard working and industrious citizen, and was highly esteemed by his neighbors and acquaintances. He was a blacksmith, and worked at his trade after coming to Butler county, in connection with farming. He died in 1915, and his widow now resides on the old home place near Rose Hill. Mrs. McWilliams was one of a family of seven children, as follows: Mrs. Ida Berry, Terre Haute, Ind.; William N., Rose Hill, Kans.; Laura, Rose Hill, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Vickers, Wichita, Kans.; Sarah, Rose Hill, Kans.; Mansfield, an attorney, Chicago, Ill.; and Mrs. McWilliams. To Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams were born three children, as follows: Raymond E., died at the age of one year; Lois, died at the age of nine years; and Ralph, died at the age of five months. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are well known and held in high respect by their many friends and neighbors.

**J. Freer McCluggage**, cashier of the Rose Hill State Bank, was born in Manito, Ill., April 28, 1880. He is a son of Dr. J. R. and Clara J. (Todd) McCluggage. A sketch of Dr. J. R. McCluggage appears in this volume. J. Freer McCluggage is one of a family of four children, born to Dr. McCluggage and his wife; Thomas Todd, a druggist at Valley Center, Kans.; J. Freer, the subject of this sketch; DeWitt K., a book-keeper in Brown's bank, Augusta, Kans.; Clarence A., a professor in a Business College at Grand Island, Neb.

J. Freer McCluggage was educated in the public schools of Douglass

and graduated from the Douglass High School in the class of 1898. He then entered the State Bank of Douglass as a clerk, remaining in that capacity for one year, when he entered the employ of the National Bank of Commerce at Stillwell, Okla. After remaining with that institution, he returned to the State Bank of Douglass in the capacity of assistant cashier, and two years later, or in 1906, he came to Rose Hill, and assisted in organizing the Rose Hill State Bank, and became its cashier.

The Rose Hill State Bank was organized with a paid up capital of \$10,000 and commenced business August 18, 1906. It has a surplus fund of \$10,500 and the bank owns its own fixtures and building, valued at \$3,300. This institution has had a rapid and substantial growth from the start, and a reference to its statements for the past ten years, or during its existence, shows that on March 25, 1907, when the bank was about seven months old, the deposits were \$41,054.86, and March 24, 1916, the deposits had reached \$110,973.87. While this institution has had a rapid growth, its management has never lost sight of the fact that strength of a financial institution is more important than its size, and their custom has always been to follow, safe and conservative banking methods. Some of the best business men in Rose Hill and vicinity, are identified with this bank, the officers of which are as follows: James J. McCluggage, president; W. N. Harris, vice president; J. F. McCluggage, cashier; and F. J., assistant cashier. The directors are: James McCluggage, S. J. McCullough, W. N. Harris, O. N. Cramer, John Scott, Dr. J. A. Barkalow, and J. F. McCluggage.

J. Freer McCluggage was married in 1905, to Miss Pearle E. Cole, of Douglass, Kans. Her father, Fred Cole, died when Mrs. McCluggage was about two years of age. He was a Butler county pioneer and an early settler at Douglass. He was extensively engaged in the sheep industry during his successful career in this county. His widow, Mrs. Temperance Cole, now resides at Douglass. Mr. and Mrs. McCluggage have three children, as follows: Marston; Max Elton, and Rex Cole. Mr. McCluggage is a man who has had a successful career in the banking business, and his vast experience has given him an opportunity to study the intricate problems of finances upon which he is unusually well informed. He is conservative enough for safe banking and at the same time progressive enough for the profitable investment of funds intrusted to his direction.

**Dr. J. R. McCluggage**, now deceased, was a prominent physician and surgeon of Butler county during his lifetime, and was engaged in the practice of his profession in this county for over a third of a century. He died August 23, 1915. Dr. McCluggage was born in Holmes county, Ohio, June 13, 1844, a son of Thomas and Eliza (Kerr) McCluggage, natives of Pennsylvania. Dr. McCluggage was one of the following children born to his parents: James, Rose Hill; Mrs. W. A. Cutting, Rose Hill; Mrs. Robert Warrender, Douglass; Mrs. George Warrender, Augusta; Morgan, Mason City, Ill.; Mrs. Mary Beedy, Atkin, Minn.;

Mrs. M. R. Thompson, Minneapolis, Minn.; Francis, deceased, and Dr. J. R., the subject of this sketch.

Dr. J. R. McCluggage received a good education and later entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., where he was graduated in 1877, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After receiving his degree, he engaged in the practice of his profession at Manito, Ill. He remained there until 1884, when he came to Butler county, Kansas, and located at Douglass, where he practiced with unvarying success until 1909, when he removed to Augusta. In the fall of 1914, he was elected probate judge of Butler county, and removed to El Dorado, assuming the duties of that office, January 10, 1915, and died August 23, following.

Dr. McCluggage was married at Topeka, Ill., April 25, 1877. Mrs. McCluggage's parents were Joseph and Nancy (De Witt) Todd, the former a native of Maryland, and the latter of Ohio. They were pioneers of Mason county, Illinois. Mrs. McCluggage was one of a family of nine children, the others being as follows: William, died in Illinois; Thomas, lives at Tonkawa, Okla.; George W., Minot, N. D.; John, died in infancy; Mrs. Mary Baltzell, died in Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Hartzell, died in Dixon, Ill.; Mrs. Sarah Ruhl, died in Clinton, Ill., and Mrs. Elizabeth LaMaters, died in Topeka, Ill.

Dr. and Mrs. McCluggage were the parents of the following children: Todd T., a druggist, Valley Center, Kans.; Joseph Freer, cashier of the Rose Hill State Bank; D. K., in the employ of Brown's Bank at Augusta, and Clarence A., a professor in a business college at Grand Island, Neb. Mrs. McCluggage resides at Augusta. Dr. McCluggage was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Augusta; Knights and Ladies of Security, of Augusta; Knights of Pythias, of El Dorado, and the Fraternal Citizens, of Augusta. Dr. McCluggage was a capable physician, a true friend, a kind husband and father, and a good citizen, and his passing was mourned not only by his own immediate family, but by his friends who numbered into the thousands in Butler county.

**F. H. Cron**, assistant cashier of the Citizens State Bank, El Dorado, Kans., has been an active factor in the affairs of Butler county since reaching manhood. Mr. Cron was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1868, and is a son of A. G. and Emma F. (Womer), both natives of Mercer county, and descendants of old Pennsylvania families. They are the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living, as follows: C. W., Mulvane, Kans.; F. H., the subject of this sketch; D. R., a jeweler, Wichita, Kans.; Anna M., an instructor in the School of Industrial Arts, Denton, Tex.; Mrs. Inez J. Church, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Edna Margaret Gibson, widow of George Gibson, Lindsborg, Kans., where she is a chiropractic doctor; Mrs. Emma F. Crane, Englewood, Colo.; Alpheus G., a teacher, resides at Mulvane, Kans.; W. W., farmer, Augusta, Kans.; A. B., an employee of the United States Agricultural Department, stationed at Amarilla, Tex.; and Joseph, farmer, Augusta, Kans.

The Cron family removed from Pennsylvania to Dakota, in 1873, and after remaining in that State for a period of eight years, came to Kansas in 1881, and settled in Bourbon county, Kans. Two years later, they came to Butler county, and purchased 160 acres of land near Augusta. After selling this land, they bought 120 acres in Bloomington and Walnut townships. The parents now reside at Mulvane, Kans., and on February 22, 1916, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at that place. A remarkable coincident in this connection is that J. M. Stanley and wife, of Ft. Scott, Kans., Mrs. F. H. Cron's parents, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on the same day, at Ft. Scott, Kans.

F. H. Cron was educated in the public schools of Butler county. He attended the Augusta High School and later took a course at the Salina Normal College, Salina, Kans. He then engaged in teaching, and for eight years, taught in Butler county, including the Augusta High School, and the Douglass High School. He was then appointed deputy county treasurer under Dr. J. D. Hamilton, and held that office for two years, when he became bookkeeper in the Citizens State Bank, and for the past eighteen years has been connected with that institution and is at present, assistant cashier.

Mr. Cron was married September 16, 1902, to Miss Blanche A. Stanley, of Ft. Scott, Kans., and a daughter of James M. and Tacy (Stroud) Morgan Stanley, pioneers of Bourbon county, Kansas. Mr. Stanley settled there in the early seventies, and the Stanleys are prominent in that county. Mr. Stanley has served as registrar of deeds in Bourbon county for two terms. He was also a soldier in the Civil war.

Mr. Cron is a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to the A. F. & A. M. of El Dorado, and the Consistory at Wichita, where he also belongs to the Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Cron takes an active interest in political affairs, and has served two terms in the Kansas legislature, having been elected in 1909, and succeeded himself in 1911. He was appointed by Governor Hodges as Regent of the Emporia Normal School, to fill out an unexpired term, before the present system of management of the educational institutions of the State was inaugurated. Mr. Cron is also a member of the bar, but has never engaged in the practice of his profession to any extent. Mrs. Cron is a prominent club woman, and is president of the Eighth District Federation of Women's Clubs, and is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cron have an extensive acquaintance and are popular.

**M. S. Loomis**, a representative citizen of Butler county, was born in Geauga county, Ohio, in 1881. He is a son of S. B. and Henrietta (Clapp) Loomis, natives of Ohio. They were the parents of two children, M. S., the subject of this sketch, and Grace. She was born in Butler county, Kansas, and educated in Augusta, and is, at present, taking a domestic science course at Pittsburg, Kans.

The Loomis family came to Kansas in the fall of 1892, locating at

Augusta. The father bought a farm the following spring, one and one-half miles east of Gordon, in Walnut township, which he sold about 1901. In the spring of 1898, he moved one and one-half miles south of Towanda on the Dr. McLaughlin farm of 160 acres, where he remained one year. He also bought 160 acres one half mile east of the first farm, and both are still owned by his heirs. Mr. Loomis moved to Augusta in 1899, where he died in December, 1910. His widow lives at Augusta.

M. S. Loomis was educated in the common schools of Butler county, Kansas, and the Huntsburg High School, Geauga county, Ohio. He is a successful farmer and stock raiser, and has made that industry his occupation.

Mr. Loomis was married in 1905 to Miss Myrtle Carter of Augusta, Kans. Her father, T. E. Carter, was a Butler county pioneer of 1866, who came to this county with his father in October of that year. He lives one half mile west of Augusta on the old homestead. Her mother bore the maiden name of Catherine Moore. Mrs. Loomis is one of two children born to her parents: Ernest, lives three miles west of Augusta, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Loomis are the parents of four children, as follows: Helen; Lyle; Lloyd, and Bernice. Mr. and Mrs. Loomis live one-half mile north and one mile west of Augusta, and are well known and highly respected.

Mr. Loomis recently leased eighty acres of his farm for oil and gas development, receiving a handsome bonus for the privilege given.

**D. A. Wallace**, a Butler county pioneer, and a successful farmer and stockman, was born in Union county, Iowa, in 1856. His parents were Samuel and Margaret (Anderson) Wallace, the former a native of Dublin, Ireland, and the latter of Indiana. They were the parents of four children: Aaron, died in Walnut township in 1885; Samuel, unmarried and lives in Walnut township; Thomas, lives in Walnut township; and D. A., the subject of this sketch.

Samuel Wallace, the father, died in Iowa, and in 1873 the mother and her four sons came to Butler county and settled in Walnut township. When the family came here the mother had only about \$25, and she rented a farm in Walnut township and her sons operated it and were successful from the start. She died in 1884 and was buried in and Cumberland cemetery. In 1886, D. A. Wallace bought 160 acres of land for \$2,000. It was the northeast quarter of section 12, Walnut township. Since that time he has added two quarters, one of which adjoins his original purchase on the north, and the other is one mile west. The latter quarter has three good producing gas wells and all of Mr. Wallace's land is in the rich oil and gas belt in the vicinity of Augusta. Mr. Wallace is one of the extensive cattle raisers and feeders of the county. He has also raised a great many hogs. His land is well located, and is an ideal stock farm.

Mr. Wallace was married in 1884, to Miss Lillie Hamblet, of August-

ta. Her father, Abner Hamblet, came to Butler county in 1879 with his family and settled in Walnut township, Butler county. They both died there and are buried in Cumberland cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have been born five children, as follows: Ruel L., married Florence Bottoms, and resides on the home place; Elmer, farmer, Walnut township, married Elma Nuffer; Minnie, married Frank Bergman, Emporia, Kans.; Byrdie, a student in the State Normal School at Emporia, and Winifred, a student in the Augusta High School.

In 1915 Mr. Wallace purchased a home in Augusta where the family now reside. Mr. Wallace is one of the Butler county pioneers who has been successful, and at the same time contributed his part to the up-building and development of his community and Butler county.

**Bruce R. Leydig**, a prominent member of the Butler county bar and an able lawyer, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Muskingum county in 1861, and is a son of Joseph A. and Winnie A. (Shirer) Leydig, the former a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. Joseph A. Leydig, the father, was a member of Company E, Ninety-seventh regiment, Ohio infantry, and was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. He left a widow and two children, James V., of Clifford township, a sketch of whom appears in this volume, and Bruce R., the subject of this sketch. Some time after the death of the father, Mrs. Leydig married W. M. Leydig, a cousin of her former husband. One child was born to that union, Harry S. Leydig, who now resides in California.

The Leydig family came to Kansas in 1872, and settled in Clifford township, Butler county, where the stepfather bought a relinquishment on a homestead of a quarter section of land, and here spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1886, and the mother survived for a number of years, and passed away in 1907, in Clifford township.

Bruce R. Leydig attended the public schools in Muskingum county, Ohio, before the family removed to Kansas, where his education was continued in the public schools. In 1877 he returned to Ohio, and attended Spencer's Normal School, at Adamsville, Ohio, until 1881, when he returned to Butler county and followed teaching until 1884. He then read law in the office of Judge A. L. L. Hamilton, and was admitted to the bar, May 20, 1885. Shortly after Mr. Leydig was admitted to the bar, his stepfather died, and he returned to the home place in Clifford township to assist in its management, and remained there until 1890. He then became associated with Judge Hamilton in the practice of his profession, under the firm name of Hamilton & Leydig, and this firm continued for twenty-six years. On March 1, 1916, Mr. Leydig became associated with Karl M. Geddes, under the firm name of Leydig & Geddes. They have well equipped and commodious offices on West Central avenue, opposite the court house, and the professional association of Messrs. Leydig and Geddes has resulted in a large clientage to the firm, both of these gentlemen being well known



throughout Butler county and this vicinity of Kansas, as capable lawyers of broad experience.

Mr. Leydig was married in 1888 to Miss Lizzie Spier, of Fairmount township. She is a daughter of Robert Speir, a Butler county pioneer who bought his place in Fairmount township in 1873, and brought his family here three years later. To Mr. and Mrs. Leydig have been born three children, as follows: Marie, a graduate of the El Dorado High School, and afterwards taught in the El Dorado schools; Robert, a graduate of the El Dorado High School, and now a student at the State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kans.; and Raymond, a student in the El Dorado schools.

Since casting his first vote, Mr. Leydig has always supported the policies and principles of the Republican party. In 1907, he was elected to the State legislature, and, during the following session, was a member of the judiciary committee, and was active in the furtherance of much important legislation that was enacted during that session. Mr. Leydig has taken a commendable interest in local affairs, and has served as a member of the school board, and has also been a member of the city council, and city attorney of El Dorado. Mr. Leydig is a close student of the law, and is recognized as one of the leading trial lawyers and counsellors of Butler county, and has the reputation of being able, fair, and fearless as a lawyer.

**Alden J. Davis**, chief engineer of the El Dorado waterworks, is a native of Butler county. He was born in El Dorado in 1881, and is a son of L. G. and Melissa A. (Aldridge) Davis, the former a native of New York State, and the latter of Canada. They were the parents of the following children: R. L., died in El Dorado at the age of forty; Glenn, deceased; John, employed in D. W. Ow's grocery store; Artie, a farmer in Colorado; Alden J., the subject of this sketch; Frank L., a farmer in Colorado; and three daughters who died in infancy.

The Davis family came to Butler county in 1879, and settled in Chelsea township. About a year later, they came to El Dorado, where the father was engaged in the grocery and butcher business, then he ran a brick plant here and later was interested in truck gardening. He died at El Dorado in 1906, and his widow still survives.

Alden J. Davis received his education in the public schools of El Dorado, and in early life assisted his father in various ways, and for a number of years has been employed by the city of El Dorado at times, and in various capacities. On April 1, 1916, he was appointed chief engineer of the waterworks, and is now capably filling that position.

Mr. Davis was married in 1903, to Miss Evelyn Frank, of El Dorado, Kans. She was an orphan, and was reared in the family of George F. Hayman of El Dorado, and came to Butler county when she was ten years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have two children: Luther, aged ten years; and Ollis, aged one year. Mr. Davis is well known in El Dorado and vicinity, and has won a reputation for reliability and efficiency.

**W. N. Harris**, a prominent hardware merchant and implement dealer of Rose Hill, Kans., is a Butler county pioneer. Mr. Harris was born in Joliet, Ill., April 11, 1865, and is a son of Walter James and Ann E. (Radcliff) Harris. The Harris family came to Kansas in 1877, and first settled at Topeka, where the father worked for two years at his trade, which was that of a blacksmith. In 1879 they came to Butler county and settled near Rose Hill where the father bought eighty acres of land and was successfully engaged in farming for a number of years. He died in August, 1915, and thus closed a useful life of one of the honored pioneers of Butler county. His widow now resides on the home place not far from Rose Hill. The following children of Walter James and Ann E. (Radcliff) Harris, survive: Mrs. Ida Berry, Mecca, Ind.; W. N., whose name introduces this sketch; Mrs. Anna McWilliams, Pleasant township; Laura, resides on the home place with her mother; Mrs. Emma Vickers, Wichita, Kans.; Sarah, resides on the home place with her mother; and Mansfield, Chicago, Ill.

W. N. Harris received a good public school education and when a youth, he learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed for ten years, when he engaged in the hardware, implement and lumber business at Rose Hill. Since engaging in this business Mr. Harris has built up a large trade over an extensive scope of territory in the vicinity of Rose Hill. It can be truthfully said that he is a successful merchant and his business has perceptibly increased each succeeding year. In addition to carrying a full line of hardware and lumber, he aims to sell the most approved and satisfactory makes of agricultural implements, harness windmills, harvesting machinery, wagons and vehicles.

Mr. Harris was united in marriage in January, 1896, to Miss Enola Skinner, a daughter of M. J. Skinner, of Douglass, Kans., and two children have been born to this union: William J., and Enola, both residing at home. Mr. Harris is a supporter of the policies of the Democratic party in National affairs, but in voting for local officers, he permits himself to be governed in his choice of candidates, purely upon the personality of each individual candidate. By his policy of honesty and integrity, in dealing with the public, Mr. Harris has built up a reputation upon which his many customers can and do safely rely.

**H. C. Staley**, an early pioneer of Butler county is now living retired at Rose Hill, after an active and successful business career. Mr. Staley was born in Chatham county, North Carolina, June 3, 1845, and is a son of G. W. and Margaret (Hinshaw) Staley, both natives of North Carolina, and descendants of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors. They spent their lives in North Carolina.

H. C. Staley was reared in his native State, educated in private schools and Guilford College, near Greensboro, N. C. He was conscripted during the Civil war and forced into the Confederate service, and served for a time as a sort of a cabin boy on a receiving ship at Wilmington, N. C. At the battle of Fort Fisher, young Staley rowed

ashore with some officers and after landing, went on home, which ended his military career unceremoniously. He remained at his North Carolina home until 1870, when he went to Indiana, and after remaining there one summer, came to Emporia, Kans., which, at that time, was the end of the railroad. He remained there during the winter of 1870 and 1871, and in the spring, came to Butler county, driving from Emporia. He preempted a claim one mile east and two miles north of the present site of Rose Hill. Soon after coming here, he built a house which was blown away by a cyclone in 1879. He also built a store a mile east of where Rose Hill now stands, and conducted a general mercantile store there, and was postmaster for six years. He then engaged in buying and shipping grain and stock, and, for a number of years, did an extensive business in those commodities, and was the largest dealer in that section of Butler county, although, for the last few years, has been practically retired. He is now one of the large land owners in that section, owning three quarter sections, and his son owns eighty acres.

When Mr. Staley came to Butler county, he colonized a settlement of Quakers in 1871 near Rose Hill, Kans., who were among the substantial early settlers of the southwestern part of the county. When he came here there was not a house in sight, in the vicinity of where Rose Hill now stands. Nothing could be seen but the tall waving blue stem, and Mr. Staley was very much impressed with the luxurious growth of grass and the fertile appearance of the country. Wichita was just in the beginning, and it had a population of about 665, and Augusta boasted of a population of only a few, while the now thriving city of Winfield had one house, a log structure, and one day when Mr. Staley was there, a man was digging a trench, and Mr. Staley asked him what he was doing. He said he was building a hotel. Mr. Staley couldn't see any good reason for a hotel there, but he says he supposes the fellow went on and built it, as Winfield rapidly developed into quite a town shortly after that. When Mr. Staley came here, there was plenty of deer and antelopes and some buffalo, but the buffalo was rapidly disappearing about that time, but could be found farther west, and Mr. Staley went on one buffalo hunting expedition after coming here, but never aspired to be much of a hunter.

Mr. Staley was married September 29, 1869, to Miss Cox, a native of North Carolina, and a daughter of Isham and Lavina (Brower) Cox. Her father was the man who raised the money from all parts of the county to build Guilford College, which is located near Greensboro, N. C.

To Mr. and Mrs. Staley have been born three children, as follows: C. W., resides near Lane, Kans.; F. B., connected with the Union Stock Yards at Wichita, and Fred, a farmer and cattleman, Rose Hill, Kans.; Louie G., deceased.

Mr. Staley is a prominent factor in the business and civic affairs of

Butler county and has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs since coming to Kansas. He has served as justice of the peace for twenty-eight years and as an illustration of the confidence in his integrity and judgment, of the many cases that have been tried in his court, not one appeal has been taken from his decision. In the early days Mr. Staley was a Republican, later a Prohibitionist, and in the evolution of political events, he has finally become a staunch supporter of the policies and principles of the Democratic party.

**James McCluggage**, a Butler county pioneer and prominent citizen of Richland township, is a son of Thomas and Eliza J. (Kerr) McCluggage, who were born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, but spent most of their lives in Holmes county, Ohio. The McCluggages were descended from Irish stock. In his earlier life in Pennsylvania, Thomas McCluggage freighted with a large six-horse wagon from Pittsburg to various frontier points. In their early married life Thomas McCluggage and his wife immigrated to Holmes county, Ohio, where ten children were born to them, of whom there are now living four boys and five girls. The parents and most of the children moved to Kansas in the early eighties, and the parents settled at Douglass, in this county, where their eldest son, Dr. J. R. McCluggage, was a practicing physician. They both died there.

James McCluggage, the subject of this sketch, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1846. He spent his boyhood there, helping make a home in the frontier, and attending the short winter school terms. He learned from his father the main points of farming and stock raising, and in 1872, he set out from Mason City, Ill., where he had spent four years, to make a home for himself in the Osage lands of Butler county. He preempted a quarter section, one mile south of the present site of Rose Hill in Richland township, and this has been his home ever since. His country home, one of the best in this section of the State, is on 200 acres of his land, which he retained after dividing up many acres, nearby, among his four sons. Mr. McCluggage is an example of the successful farmer, and like most other farmers in this section, his success has been brought about mainly by stock raising and breeding. The Galloway cattle of the McCluggage farm have been a marked feature in the annals of stock raising in this county for years.

In 1877 Miss Jennie McMillian, of this county, became the bride of James McCluggage. They are the parents of five children, four boys and one daughter: Miss Jennie C. McCluggage, who is the youngest of the children and is in college. She had the distinction of being the youngest to graduate in any Butler county high school in 1915. J. Ralph McCluggage, the eldest son, after attending Lewis Academy, Wichita, settled on farming as his life work and resides a mile northeast of his father's home. Francis J. McCluggage, second son, is assistant cashier of the Rose Hill State Bank. He is married and lives at Rose Hill. The two younger sons, T. V. and R. T., were inclined toward the law. The for-

mer graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor in the class of 1910, and is a member of the law firm of Hawks & McCluggage, Wichita, Kans. R. T. McCluggage, the youngest son, finished the law course at Kansas University in the spring of 1915 and is now located at Augusta.

James McCluggage has always been prominent in furthering the things that benefited his community. He served several terms as township trustee and treasurer, but he never aspired in politics. In 1906, he was one of the organizers of the Rose Hill State Bank, and became president of that institution, which position he has since held.

Besides the late Dr. J. R. McCluggage, now deceased, a sketch of whom appears in this volume, James McCluggage has been cheered by the association of several brothers and sisters who have made their homes in this county. M. S. McCluggage, a bachelor brother, makes his home with him; Mrs. Robert Warrender, a sister, lives on a farm in Richland township; Mrs. George Warrender, another sister, lives at Augusta, Kans., and Mrs. Will Cutting, resides in Pleasant township. Morgan McCluggage formerly lived in this county, but now resides at Mason City, Ill. A sister, Mrs. Mart Thompson, lives at Minneapolis, Minn., and Mrs. Frank Beedy at Aitkin, Minn.

Mr. McCluggage has a wide acquaintance over Butler county, and is well known as one of the substantial men of this section of the State.

**Francis J. McCluggage**, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Rose-hill, is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. James McCluggage, of Richland township. (See sketch of James McCluggage in this volume.) He was born March 28, 1881, and reared on the McCluggage homestead, one and one half miles south of Rose Hill. After completing the common school course at district No. 81, known as the McCluggage school, the school house being across the road from the McCluggage home, Francis J. McCluggage attended high school at Douglass, and after graduating there, he attended Lewis Academy at Wichita and finished a course in the commercial department of Wichita Business College. After leaving the latter institution in 1901, he secured a position with the State Bank at Douglass, and prior to the founding of the Rose Hill State Bank, he farmed for a number of years. He has shared with his cousin, J. Freer McCluggage, the active management of the Rose Hill State Bank for a number of years, and has had the pleasure of witnessing that institution grow, in a few years, and become one of the strong institutions of the county.

Francis J. McCluggage was married in 1912, to Miss Estella McCune, daughter of C. W. McCune, a successful farmer of Richland township. They have one son, Francis Melvin, born in 1913. They attend the Church of Christ of Rose Hill. Mr. McCluggage is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Rose Hill.

Mr. McCluggage is a courteous and capable gentleman, and well qualified in every respect for the responsible position which he holds.

**Edward Wilford**, son of John and Elizabeth (Hardy) Wilford, was born in South Croxton, Leicestershire, England, in 1838, and came to Sheboygan, Wis., in 1858. There was a gale at sea during the voyage, and three sailors drowned. He soon journeyed to Iowa, where he spent four years, when he returned to Wisconsin. He came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1874, and filed on a quarter section of land two and one-half miles northwest of Douglass, which has been his home ever since. He has added considerable land to the original quarter, and has engaged extensively in farming and stock raising.

In 1877, Mr. Wilford married Miss Mary Anderson at Wichita, Kans. Mrs. Wilford is a native of County Armagh, Ireland. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilford are hale and hearty, despite advancing years, and their autumn of life is made cheerful by their four children, who grew to maturity. The Wilford home is on an elevation overlooking the winding Walnut valley for many miles in either direction of its course. Mrs. Wilford is pleased to call her home her castle, and says, that when they get her to leave it, they will have to carry her out. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilford are fond of the progressive farm life which they have made there for so many years. They have no longing for town or city life. They take the best daily papers and periodicals, and keep thoroughly posted on the doings of the world.

The kitchen part of the Wilford home is one of the early landmarks in southern Butler county, it being the original dug-out on the south slope of "Mount Wilford," and in years past, as at present, has been the scene of marked hospitality. The old cellar has been modernized, and a spacious frame house has been built over it, but Mrs. Wilford spends much time in the original room, in which she cooked her first meal in Butler county.

Thos. E. Wilford, an only son, is married and occupies a model cottage close by the old homestead. He conducts the farm work. Other children are: Mrs. Arthur Vint, of Hutchinson; Mrs. Bert Shanks, of Douglass, and Mrs. Jesse Darter, of Douglass.

**E. J. Boland**, the present mayor of Leon, is one of Butler county's progressive business men and belongs to that type of successful men who do things. Mr. Boland was born in Henry county, Missouri, in 1872, and is a son of J. A. and Emily (Beggerly) Boland. J. A. Boland was a native of Indiana, his father was a Scotchman, and his mother was an English woman. E. J. Boland's mother was a native of North Carolina. The Boland family came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1886, the father trading his farm in Missouri for 240 acres of land in Butler county, located about seven miles from Leon. He was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising here until his death, January 6, 1911, and his wife died two days later and both were buried in the same grave. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are living, E. J., the subject of this sketch, and B. F., who resides at Carthage, Mo.

Mr. Boland was reared on a farm, and was successfully engaged in



E. J. BOLAND



MRS. E. J. BOLAND



E. J. BOLAND'S GARAGE, LEON, KANSAS

farming and stock raising until 1913, when he left the farm and removed to Leon where he has since been engaged in the automobile business. While still on the farm, in 1911, he took the agency for the Ford automobile in Leon and vicinity, and his business in that connection developed so rapidly that in 1913, he gave up the farm and has since devoted himself to the automobile business. Upon coming to Leon, he opened a garage and in addition to his sales department, initiated a repair department. His business rapidly developed, and he rented an adjacent room to accommodate it, and it was not long until he found that his enlarged quarters were too small to accommodate his increasing business. In 1916 he built a garage, fifty by one hundred feet. The building is practically fire proof, being constructed of pressed brick with concrete floor, well lighted and is the best equipped garage in Butler county and one of the best in the State. It was completed and occupied about January 1, 1916. Mr. Boland has installed an electric dynamo in connection with his garage and his plan is to furnish electric light for the town, and there is no doubt but what this plan will soon be materialized, as Mr. Boland has a reputation for finishing almost everything that he has started up to the present writing.

Mr. Boland was united in marriage in 1894 to Miss Mina Bean, daughter of John and Hattie (Bridges) Bean, of Atchison, Kans., and to this union have been born four children, as follows: Earl, Lavon, Bertine and Kenneth, all attending the public schools of Leon, Earl being in the second year of high school.

As mayor of Leon, Mr. Boland is wide-awake to every idea that tends to the upbuilding and the betterment of the town. Being a man of pleasant manner and good personal address, he has many friends, and there is no doubt that the very best possible administration of the city's affairs will continue under his leadership.

**J. A. Barkalow, M. D.**, a prominent Butler county physician and surgeon, located at Rose Hill, is a son of T. P. and Mary (Lloyd) Barkalow, who spent most of their lives in Montgomery and Warren counties, Ohio. Dr. Barkalow, the subject of this sketch, was born near Dayton, Ohio, in 1855. His father was a farmer and moved with his family to McLean county, Illinois, in 1864, where they made their home until 1885, when they went to Florida for their health and spent the remainder of their lives here. Dr. Barkalow received a good education, and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, where he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1881. He engaged in practice at Lawndale, Ill., until 1883, when he went to Elkhart, Ill.

In 1881, Dr. Barkalow was married to Miss Leonora H. Berry, of Towanda, Ill. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Berry, and family came to Butler county, and settled on a farm, one mile east of where Rose Hill now stands, in 1884. A year later Dr. Barkalow came with Mrs. Barkalow and established themselves here, Dr. Barkalow maintaining his of-



face at the Berry farm house. At that time what was called Rose Hill consisted of two stores and a blacksmith shop. Walter J. Harris, father of W. N. Harris, the well known merchant of Rose Hill, conducted the blacksmith shop. H. C. Staley kept one of the small general stores and also the postoffice, and Ferdinand Meeker ran the other store and was postmaster when the administration at Washington changed. When the present Rose Hill was laid out in 1888, Dr. Barkalow established his office and residence there, where he has since been engaged in practice.

With the death of Dr. J. R. McCluggage and the election of Dr. J. D. Hamilton to the office of county treasurer, Dr. Barkalow observes, that only Dr. S. T. Shelly of Mulvane and himself are left, of the "Old Guard" of country doctors who have answered the call of the ailing, at all times of day or night, and in all kinds of weather, during the past thirty years in southern Butler and eastern Sedgwick counties. During this time, Dr. Barkalow has been called upon to exert his skill in a wide range of practice. He has enjoyed much satisfaction through this practice and the associations with the wholesome farming community, yet he has not been entirely satisfied with his lot. He has ever striven to gain higher knowledge and skill, and endeavoring to better his condition by improving the social and material welfare of his community.

Dr. Barkalow is independent in politics. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge of Rose Hill, and the Masonic Lodge as Douglass. Dr. and Mrs. Barkalow have one daughter, Lulu, the wife of E. H. Brettmann, of Wichita. In his professional work of considerably over a quarter of a century, Dr. Barkalow has not only built up a large practice, but has won a host of friends among his wide acquaintance.

**Chas. R. Cline** was a son of Samuel F. and Elizabeth (Hargett) Cline, who were natives of Fleming county, Kentucky. The elder Clines moved to Missouri, following the Civil war, and thence to Illinois. Later they came to Butler county, and the father farmed three years in Pleasant township. He and his wife then moved to Independence, Kans., and later both died in Missouri. Charles R. Cline, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, January 29, 1843. He spent his boyhood there and helped his father and nine brothers and sisters in the farm work, and attended the three-months subscription school terms during the winters. At the outbreak of the Civil war, Mr. Cline enlisted in Company D, Twenty-fourth Kentucky infantry, and served three and one-half years in the Second division of the Army of the Cumberland. He was wounded at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, being struck by a minnie ball which fractured his left arm, and incapacitated him for further service.

In 1866, Mr. Cline was united in marriage to Miss Aphely Filson of his native county. In 1872, the couple moved to McDonough county, Illinois, where they remained until they came to make their fortunes in Butler county, in 1876. They shipped to Wichita, and while there Mr.

Cline was offered a strip of forty acres of splendid bottom land for an old grey mare, he had with him, but he made up his mind to locate in the vicinity of Douglass, where a brother-in-law, Samuel T. Filson, had already settled. He preempted a quarter section of land on the northwest section of Douglass township, and has added to this tract and made it his home ever since. He has been active in general farming and stock raising in which he has met with more than ordinary success.

In 1903, Mrs. Cline died, leaving eight children, four boys and four girls. In 1907, Mr. Cline attended a "home-coming" at his old home, in Fleming county, Kentucky, and at that time became acquainted with Miss Elizabeth Thompson, a cousin of Mrs. Cline, and they were married during his stay there. To them were born a girl and two boys. Mr. Cline died March 26, 1916.

**George D. Neiman** of Whitewater, Kans., is one of Butler county's younger business men. Mr. Neiman is a native son of Butler county, and was born in Milton township, near the town of Brainerd, June 26, 1887. He is a son of J. S. and Agnes (Morland) Neiman, Butler county pioneers. George D. Neiman was educated in the district schools and the Whitewater High School. He then entered the Bank of Whitewater, and after remaining with the bank about four years, in 1907, he resigned to engage in business in partnership with his father, under the firm name of the Whitewater Lumber and Coal Company. They handled building material extensively, and were also engaged in the implement business. In 1906, they added a complete line of hardware, and to accommodate this branch of their business, they erected a substantial brick store building 50x150 feet, where they carried an extensive line. Within the last two years they have branched out in the tractor field. During the year 1915 they sold ten carloads of tractors, and were obliged to cancel orders for about two carloads on account of their inability to get the goods from the factory.

Mr. Neiman has great faith in the future of the tractor, and believes that within the next five years it will succeed the horse in a large measure on the farm.

Mr. Neiman was united in marriage, in 1908, to Miss Edna Bishop, daughter of M. M. and Hettie Bell (Schriver) Bishop. To Mr. and Mrs. Neiman has been born one child, Gilbert Howard, born November 24, 1912.

George D. Neiman is a typical, twentieth century, business man and belongs to that type of which our captains of industry are made. He can see possibilities and draw quick conclusions and possesses the many attributes which tend to a successful business career.

**George B. Hanstine**, cashier of the Peoples State Bank of Whitewater, is one of Butler county's successful financiers. He is a native of Indiana, born in Bartholomew county, November 7, 1864. He is a son of Adam and Margaret (Zollinger) Hanstine, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Maryland. The parents were married

in Pennsylvania, and for a number of years, resided in that State, and later moved to Indiana, where the father worked at his trade, which was that of a wagon maker. In 1876, the family came to Kansas, locating in Butler county, near Whitewater, and here George B. Hanstine was reared on a farm, educated in the public schools, and grew to manhood. In early life he followed farming and stock raising extensively, and the first twenty-eight years of his life were devoted to that business. He then removed to Whitewater, and engaged more extensively in cattle feeding, frequently feeding as many as five hundred head at one time. After being successfully engaged in that business about six years, he accepted the cashiership of the Peoples State Bank at Whitewater.

This bank is one of the substantial financial institutions of Butler county, and was organized July 16, 1908, with a paid up stock of \$15,000. As cashier, Mr Hanstine is the executive head of the bank. Mr. Hanstine has not only been active in the commercial side of the life of Whitewater, but has taken a keen interest in its public and social affairs as well, and especially in its schools. He was a member of the Harvey county board of education for several years, and has served as clerk of the Whitewater school board. He was elected a member of the Whitewater board of education on the issue of erecting a new school building, and did most effective work in the campaign to secure the issuing of bonds for its erection. It was built at a cost of \$25,000, and stands as a monument to the tireless efforts of those who saw its need and made it possible.

Mr. Hanstine was married May 8, 1890, to Miss Elizabeth Alice Hawks, a daughter of Emanuel H. Hawks of Whitewater. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanstine have been born two children: Pearl Evelyn, married Robert Norris, Vassar, Kans., and Paul, manager of the People's Lumber Company, Whitewater, Kans. Mr. Hanstine is a Democrat, and a member of the Lutheran church, and has been treasurer of the church at Whitewater, and for twenty-five years has been superintendent of the Sunday school. He is president of the Whitewater Commercial Club, and favors any movement for the betterment or upbuilding of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Hanstine take a prominent part in the educational and social life of Whitewater, and are numbered among its most valued and esteemed citizens.

**John Horner, M. D.**, a prominent pioneer physician and surgeon of Butler county, although now in his eighty-second year, is still engaged in the practice of his profession, although he does not attempt as extensive a practice as he did in the years past. Dr. Horner was born in Rockcastle county, Kentucky, November 23, 1833, and is a son of George and Missinah (Welsh) Horner, natives of Virginia. When Dr. Horner was a boy, the family left their Kentucky home and removed to Decatur county, Indiana. From early boyhood, Dr. Horner was imbued with the ambition to become a physician, and in early life purchased a cyclopedia of medicine, from which he obtained an elementary knowledge of that

great science in which he in after years received a more thorough and scientific training. In the early fifties, he left Indiana and went to St. Louis, and from there to La Salle, Ill. He remained there, however, but a short time when he went to Iowa. In 1860, he went to Quincy, Ill., where he remained ten years, and in 1870 came to Butler county, Kansas, driving the entire distance and camping by the wayside at night. He and his party first stopped at Bird's branch, just east of El Dorado for a time but were not favorably impressed with the quality of soil in that section. They came on to Milton township in search of a more suitable location. When they reached that part of the county Dr. Horner says that the rank growth of blue stem greatly impressed him, and his deduction was that the soil which produced such an unusual growth must be correspondingly fertile, and when he first looked upon the present site of Whitewater, that it was one broad expanse of waving blue stem, and he remarked to his companions: "This is the place for me; surely it is the 'Garden of the Gods.'"

Shortly after coming here, Dr. Horner homesteaded eighty acres which now adjoins the town of Whitewater. Like most of the early settlers of that day, he was poor, and did most any kind of work that was to be done in order to make both ends meet. He worked at the mason's trade and also at carpentry, as well as early day farming. He helped build what was known as the old stone house in 1872, for Horace Wilcox, a prominent cattleman of the early days. He also built a store mill for Wilcox which is still standing, and he built the school house in district No. 84. When a young man he was a mechanical genius, and could readily turn his hand to almost any kind of mechanical work. He devised a corn dropper which was used in planting corn. During all those years of early day activity on the plains, he was also privately pursuing the study of medicine as well as receiving instruction under the preceptorship of Dr. Buck of Peabody. He borrowed a skeleton from a physician friend which he used in his studies, and soon obtained considerable knowledge of medicine. There was no regular practicing physician in his vicinity at that time, and he was frequently called upon to attend the sick. He met with considerable success in that line of endeavor and soon had quite an extensive practice. Dr. Grinell of Peabody, a very good friend of his, advised him that he could not follow farming and practice medicine successfully, and offered to loan him money to attend medical college. Dr. Horner accepted the proposition and entered the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was graduated with a degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1880. He then returned to Whitewater and engaged in the practice of medicine in earnest, and in an incredibly short time had built up an unusually large practice, and within six months had paid back to Dr. Grinell the loan which he had so generously made a short time before.

Dr. Horner still owns the place which he homesteaded in 1870. He was married in Iowa to Miss Charity Horner, a native of Virginia, who

is now seventy-nine years of age, and to this union have been born three children, as follows: Lillian, married E. T. Neal, and they have two children; Menonia, married Hamilton Young, of California, and they have three children; and Hattie, a teacher in the University of Denver, Colo.

Dr. Horner is one of the honored pioneers of Butler county and has been a success as a citizen as well as a successful physician. His life's work has been worth while. He is a great reader and has been a close student all his life. While he has kept up to date in his professional studies, his research has by no means been confined to the professional sphere. He is a great student of the best authors of fiction, history and philosophy. He is also an accomplished musician and has composed a number of orchestra and band pieces. As a result of his extensive research and profound study, he has arrived at many fixed conclusions in civics, economics and various other important studies. He says the corner stone of society is good motherhood. Fraternally he has been affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, and politically he is a Republican, but inclined to be independent.

**R. H. Farr**, president of the Whitewater Milling & Elevator Company, has, perhaps, had more to do with the industrial development of Whitewater in recent years than any other man. He is the principal owner of this great commercial enterprise and is the sole owner of the Whitewater Electric Light & Ice Plant.

Mr. Farr is a native of New York and was born twelve miles from the shores of Lake Champlain in Clinton county in 1851. He is a son of James and Sarah (Marshall) Farr, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Canada and of English descent. R. H. Farr was one of a family of twelve children and grew to manhood on the little New York farm. His early education was obtained in a little log school house where the three R's were taught, and the discipline of the rod prevailed for a period of twelve weeks, annually. Young Farr was ambitious to obtain a better education than the curriculum of the district school provided, and by hard work and the strictest economy he saved enough to attend a special school in that locality. Later he taught school for a time, after which he attended the State Normal School at Potsdam, New York.

In August, 1878, Mr. Farr was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Colelough, a native of Canada who was reared and educated in New York. In October following their marriage, Mr. Farr and his bride came to Kansas locating in Harvey county. Here he bought eighty acres of land for \$600, giving a mortgage for the entire purchase price. In later years, he sold that eighty for \$8,700. His first years in Kansas were similar to the common lot of many of the pioneers of the plains. Money was scarce and with frequent crop failures and poor markets he often saw the time that he was not the possessor of a five-cent piece. He engaged in teaching school for a time in Harvey county, which afforded

an immediate means of obtaining ready cash. After some years of adversity success and prosperity crowned his efforts and he accumulated 480 acres of land.

He took an active part in early day politics, always having been identified with the Republican party, and in 1888, he was elected county clerk of Harvey county. Two years later he was reelected to succeed himself. Nominations at that time were made by the old delegate convention system, and Mr Farr was nominated on the forty-second ballot, for the first term which would indicate a lively interest in Harvey county politics at that time. His election followed by a substantial majority of about fifteen hundred. During his incumbency of the office of county clerk, he resided at Newton, the county seat, and continued to reside there after the expiration of his term of office until 1899, during which time he was engaged in handling some farm land.

In 1899, he removed to Whitewater and erected a mill which was the beginning of his present great milling industry. The Company was organized in 1899 and capitalized at \$40,000, which has been more than doubled since that time. Besides the Whitewater plant, this Company has a number of branch elevators, and they handle about two hundred thousand bushels of wheat, forty thousand bushels of corn and fifty thousand bushels of oats annually, the volume of which, of course, varies with the productiveness of each season. In the successful management and progressive development of this great grain enterprise, Mr. Farr has not only developed a great institution for himself but he has created and maintained a staple grain market for that section of the State. He has never turned away a load of grain. His policy has been square dealing at all times, and honest markets, since the organization of the company. The Electric Light & Ice Company of which Mr. Farr is the sole owner, was organized in 1913, and a plant build at a cost of \$16,000. The ice plant has a capacity of twelve tons per day, and operates a refrigerator and cold storage plant in connection. The electric light plant furnishes an all night current, which is unusual for a town of the size of Whitewater.

Mr. Farr was one of the organizers of the Whitewater Commercial Club, and also took part in the organization of the Peoples State Bank of Whitewater. He has taken an active part in the civic betterment of the town as well as in its commercial and industrial activities. He was one of the leaders in the movement for the new high school, which met with great opposition, but finally succeeded and was built at an approximate cost of \$25,000, and is now one of the institutions of which Whitewater is justly proud.

Mr. Farr is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Farr have been born four children, as follows: Grace, married to F. G. Cunningham, accountant and financial secretary of the Whitewater Milling Company; Edua, married H. N. Davidson, Oakland, Cal.; Edgar, residing in

Whitewater, where he has charge of the electric light plant; and Mabel, who is married to J. E. Saunders, a civil engineer and graduate of the Armour Institute of Chicago, now holding a responsible position with the Union Switch and Signal Company, of Pittsburg, Pa.

**A. H. Nossaman, M. D.**, a leading physician and surgeon of Whitewater, is a native of Harrison county, Missouri, and is a son of W. P. and Nancy (Rice) Nossaman. The Nossaman family came to Kansas in 1879, locating in McPherson county, and four years later, moved to Kingman county, and the parents now reside at Cunningham, Kansas. Dr. Nossaman was the second in order of birth, of a family of eight children.

After receiving a good common school education in the public schools of Kingman county, he taught school for two years, and in 1899 entered the Salina Normal University and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1901, with a degree of Bachelor of Science. He then entered the University Medical College of Kansas City, Mo., where he was graduated in 1904, with a degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Nossaman then engaged in the practice of his profession at Isabel, Barber county, where he remained for six years. He then removed to Wichita, where he was a successful practitioner for three years, and in 1912 came to Whitewater and succeeded to the practice of Dr. H. L. Wood and has built up an extensive practice in Whitewater and vicinity. He was married in 1903 to Lelia J. Duncan, a native of Indiana, and they have two children, Lawrence, born June 28, 1904, and Marian, born August 28, 1906.

Dr. Nossaman is a member of the American Medical Association and a member of the Medical Alumni Association. He holds membership in the Masonic lodge, A. F. and A. M., No. 303, Wichita, Kans. Dr. Nossaman is a close student of his profession and an untiring worker. He has a large income from his extensive practice, but the mere making of money is not his greatest concern. He loves his profession and his greatest reward is the appreciation of successful results in his chosen field of labor. He is one of Butler county's capable and most progressive physicians.

**P. J. Hershey**, a Kansas pioneer and Civil war veteran, was born in Fremont, Sandusky county, Ohio, February 11, 1842, and is a son of David and Susan (Miller) Hershey, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Hershey was reared on a farm in the rural districts of Ohio and attended the country schools. He remembers one of his early teachers, whom, he says, was a good looking girl, and received the princely salary of \$1.50 per week and "boarded around." If the teacher's talent was any thing like the price that she received for it, the boy would be lucky if he absorbed very much knowledge from such a source. When a young man Mr. Hershey followed farming and worked at the carpenter's trade.

On September 1, 1863, he enlisted in Company I, Twelfth Ohio cavalry. His company was sent to Camp Denison, Ohio, where they

were drilled for a time and later transferred to Johnson Island, where they did guard duty. In February, 1864, they returned to Camp Denison and the following April went to Mt. Sherling, Ky., and in May formed a part of an expedition of 5,000 cavalry sent on a campaign against Salisbury, N. C., for the purpose of destroying the salt works there. While on the march in the mountains of East Tennessee the plan of campaign was changed and they were sent in pursuit of General Morgan, who was marching on Lexington, Ky. The Union troops encountered Morgan's command at Camp Standard unexpectedly and an engagement ensued in which Mr. Hershey was severely wounded, a bullet passing through his body. His wound was considered fatal, but he recovered under the careful treatment of his uncle, who was a physician at Fremont, Ohio, and who came to the front to care for his soldier nephew. Mr. Hershey was wounded June 9, 1864, and in the following October joined his regiment at Richmond, Ky. Shortly after this the regiment, with other troops, again started on the campaign against Salisbury. In addition to the destruction of the salt works at Salisbury, they were sent on a campaign to destroy the Virginia & Tennessee railroad. After this campaign they marched through Virginia and were reinforced at Addington by a strong body of infantry and struck the Virginia & Tennessee railroad and destroyed many bridges and many miles of track, and at the same time had many skirmishes with Confederate forces. After this campaign they returned to Lexington, Ky., encountering the Confederate forces at several points at which skirmishes ensued. The regiment averaged thirty-three miles per day on its march, reaching Lexington the latter part of January, 1865. Later they went to Nashville and Louisville, and in March, 1865, they were sent on a campaign against Salisbury, which was their last service before the close of the war, and Mr. Hershey was mustered out and discharged in October, 1865, with a very commendable military record. When he returned to his regiment after being wounded he was made an orderly, and served in that capacity until his discharge.

At the close of the war, Mr. Hershey returned to Ohio, where he remained until 1867, and in the spring of that year came to Kansas, and after spending about two months in Atchison, Leavenworth and Topeka went to Burlingame. In the fall of that year he went to St. Joseph, Mo., and later to Wyoming Territory. He remained there until 1869, when he returned to Kansas and spent the winter in Johnson county. In the spring he bought a team, wagon and camping outfit and drove to Butler county. When he reached the vicinity of where Whitewater is now located, he was greatly impressed with the giant growth of the blue stem, which, he says, was over ten feet high in places. He filed on a claim four miles southeast of where the town is now located, and still owns the place.

Mr. Hershey was married at Eureka Springs, Ark., in 1888, to Miss Edith Bamber, a native of Linconshire, England, and a daughter of



Urban W. and Ellen (Lenton) Bamber, natives of England, who came to America in 1872 and settled at Leavenworth, Kans., when Mrs. Hershey was ten years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Hershey have been born two children, as follows: H. E., born January 22, 1889, attended the Whitewater High School and graduated from the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan in the class of 1910, where he was graduated in the electrical engineering course and for the past five years has been employed by the Chicago Automatic Telephone Company as an electrical engineer and now has charge of the publicity department in St. Paul and Minneapolis. He married Miss Florence Dickey, of Newton, Kans. Harry J., the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Hershey, was born March 3, 1901, and is in his third year in the Whitewater High School. Mr. Hershey is a Republican and belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Hershey is a member of the Whitewater board of education and is prominent in social and civic affairs, and is a very capable woman.

**L. J. Neal**, a prominent hardware merchant of Whitewater, Kans., was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1848, and is a son of John and Johnanna (Stillwaggon) Neal. The Neals are of Scotch descent and Johanna Stillwaggon traces her lineage through a long line of honorable English ancestors who were of Norman descent, and came to Briton with William the Conqueror. Johanna Stillwaggon was a daughter of John and Sarah (Fitz Randolph) Stillwaggon. Sarah Fitz Randolph was born in South Amboy, N. J., in 1780, and was a daughter of John and Elizabeth Fitz Randolph. John Fitz Randolph was born on August 4, 1749, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was a son of Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, who was born at Princeton, N. J., on November 11, 1703. Nathaniel as the son of Benjamin, who was also born at Princeton, N. J., on April 24, 1693, and Benjamin was the younger son of Edward Fitz Randolph, the founder of the Fitz Randolph family in America and emigrated to this country from England in 1630.

Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, above mentioned, was the promoter of Princeton College. In 1759 he proposed the circulation of a subscription for the establishment of a college at Princeton, N. J., and succeeded in obtaining about \$2,500 and obtained a charter. Afterwards a second charter was issued by Governor Belcher and \$8,500 was obtained for the college. Nathaniel Fitz Randolph gave four and one-half acres of land for the college grounds and also \$100 in money, besides devoting much time to the project. The deed of the four and one-half acres of land was executed January 25, 1753, and the property was transferred to the trustees of Princeton College and the excavation for the building was begun in 1754 and the cornerstone was laid September 17, 1754.

L. J. Neal's parents removed from their Pennsylvania home to Sheyboyan, Wis., when he was a child. John Neal followed farming in Wisconsin, where he spent the balance of his life. His wife also

died in that State. L. J. Neal, whose name introduces this sketch, received a limited education in a log school house near Sheybogan, Wis., and remained on his father's farm until 1867, when he enlisted in the regular army and served three years, and during that time was stationed in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. After receiving an honorable discharge from the army at the expiration of his term of enlistment, he returned to Wisconsin, where he spent about four years, when he went to McHenry county, Illinois, and was employed as a farm laborer about three years. He then came to Kansas and was located for a short time at Peabody, when he went to Leadville, Colo.

He was engaged in silver and gold mining in that section about twenty-two years, and while there served as a member of the Leadville fire department for three years, and held the position of lieutenant in that organization. On March 17, 1904, he came to Whitewater, Kans., and entered into partnership with his brother, G. W. Neal, who was engaged in the hardware business there. G. W. Neal died January 1, 1905, and at the death of his brother, L. J. Neal bought the entire interest of the heirs and has conducted the business alone since that time. In 1909 he erected a new store building, which is now occupied by the business. He carries a full line of hardware, and is one of the extensive dealers of Butler county. Mr. Neal is a Republican and belongs to the Masonic lodge.

**L. M. Pace**, a prominent hardware merchant of Whitewater, was a pioneer railroad agent of Kansas. Mr. Pace was born in Weldon, Ill., June 16, 1858, and is a son of Robert A. and Isabelle (Mason) Pace, both natives of Cumberland county, Kentucky. Robert Pace was a son of John and Lucy (Alexander) Pace, natives of Henry county, Virginia. The Pace family are of old Virginia stock, and was founded in the colony of Virginia in 1665, and is of English origin. John Pace was the founder of the Pace family in Virginia, and so far as known, all members of the Pace family in America are descendants from him. John Pace, Jr., son of John Pace, the founder of the family in this country, was employed in the early days in Virginia as an overseer of slaves on a plantation. Three of the descendants of John Pace served in the Revolutionary war.

L. M. Pace, the subject of this sketch, first came to Butler county in charge of the commissary during the construction of the Missouri Pacific railroad, which was built through Towanda, and he was the first station agent at that place. Towanda was a little frontier town at that time and an Indian trading post had been located there for a number of years, conducted by J. R. Meade. Mr. Pace was agent at Towanda for three years, when he went to Peabody and entered the employ of the Rock Island railroad as station agent, and remained there three years, and in 1892 came to Whitewater as station agent for the Rock Island road. He remained in the employ of that road until 1899, when he engaged in the hardware business at Whitewater in partner-

ship with C. B. Dein. Ten years later Mr. Pace purchased his partner's interest in the hardware business, and conducted it at the old stand until 1913, when he moved his stock into the building formerly occupied by the Neiman Hardware Company. His son, Walter R. Pace, is now associated with him in business, and Mr. Pace has succeeded in shifting most of the detailed management of the business to the junior member of the firm. The Pace hardware store carries one of the best stocks of general hardware to be found in the county, and they are also extensive dealers in all kinds of farming implements and machinery.

Mr. Pace was married at Towanda, Kans., October 12, 1887, to Miss Florence Wait, a daughter of Clark and Hannah (Putnam) Wait, natives of New York, and early settlers of Towanda, Kans. The Putnam branch of the family traces its ancestry back to Gen. Israel Putnam of Revolutionary fame. Clark Wait died in 1903, and his wife preceded him in death a number of years, she having passed away in 1875.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pace have been born one child, Walter, born in 1893, Enterprise, Dickenson county, Kansas. Walter was only three years old when the family came to Whitewater, so for all practical purposes, Whitewater is his native town. He was educated in the public schools of Whitewater, including the Whitewater High School, after which he took a course in a Wichita business college, when he entered the hardware business at Whitewater with his father, as above stated.

L. M. Pace is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Modern Woodmen of America, and his political affiliations are with the Democratic party.

**H. M. Nolder**, the present mayor of Whitewater, is one of the most extensive poultry dealers in central Kansas. Mr. Nolder began business in Whitewater in 1910, and since that time his small beginning has developed into one of the most important business concerns in this section of the State. His business extends over a radius of sixty or seventy miles from Whitewater and by his method of square dealing he has built up a reputation for paying top notch prices for poultry and eggs throughout the section where he does business, which has been a dominant factor in the rapid development of his business. He ships poultry by the car load lots to the principal markets of the East, including New York, Boston and Philadelphia, and in the other direction he markets his produce as far west as Los Angeles.

Mr. Nolder is a native of Kansas, having been born in Harvey county, June 8, 1872, and bears the distinction of being born in a dug-out. His parents were George and Mary (Lemons) Nolder, both natives of Ohio. When the father first came to Kansas he was employed on the construction of the Sante Fe railroad from Topeka to Emporia, and by the time that the railroad was extended to Newton he went to work for the company in the capacity of fireman and was thus engaged for a few years. He died in 1876, and his wife departed this life in 1883.

and thus H. M. Nolder was left an orphan in early childhood. He went to live with J. A. Commons, a farmer in Harvey county, at about the age of ten. When he was about fifteen years of age he ran away from his employer and went to Wichita. Here he obtained employment with a farmer near that city by the name of August Gabrison, a Swede, and worked for him for two years and remained in the vicinity of Wichita about six years. He then returned to his former employer in Harvey county. Mr. Nolder obtained a very good education under the circumstances that surrounded his boyhood days. He attended the district schools and Lewis Academy at Wichita, and later was a student in the Halstead High School and the Normal School at Great Bend, Kans. He was married March 15, 1900, to Miss Hattie, daughter of W. S. Evans, who settled at Halstead, Harvey county, at an early date. To Mr. and Mrs. Nolder have been born three children: Howard E., Ella Millicent and George Oscar.

Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Nolder engaged in farming, renting land in Harvey county, which he followed until 1910, when he came to Whitewater and engaged in his present business. His capital was limited and for the first few years he was compelled to proceed with caution, and by strict economy he has accumulated a substantial working capital and today controls one of the important business enterprises of Butler county. He has been a life long Republican, and has served for five years on the city council of Whitewater. In 1915 he was elected mayor and is now serving in that capacity. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and Kansas Fraternal Citizens, and holds membership in the Christian church.

**E. L. Neal**, Whitewater, Kans., is a native of Sheyboygan county, Wisconsin, and is a son of G. W. Neal. For a geneological review of the Neal family, see sketch of L. J. Neal in this volume. G. W. Neal, the father of E. L. Neal, whose name introduces this sketch, was a Civil war veteran and served three years and four months in Company D, Third regiment, Wisconsin infantry. He was one of the veterans who saw much service in camp, on the march and on the field of battle. He was with Grant in the early part of the war with the Army of the West, and was with Sherman on his memorable march, and was severely wounded at the battle of Resaca, which ended his military career, as he was soon afterwards discharged by reason of disability, and returned to his Wisconsin home.

Shortly after the war the family removed to Michigan, where they remained for a time, when they went to Illinois, locating in De Kalb county, and in 1871 came to Kansas, locating at Coneburg, on the line of the Santa Fe railroad, which was then in the course of construction. About that time the name of Coneburg was changed to Peabody, in honor of F. H. Peabody, then president of the Santa Fe railroad. Mr. Peabody donated to the town a \$10,000 library in consideration of the

honor conferred upon him in giving the town his name. Soon after coming to Coneburg, or Peabody, G. W. Neal engaged in the grain and lumber business about the time the railroad was ready for operation, and he received the first car load of lumber that was shipped over the new railroad, and was one of the first to buy grain and other produce from the early settlers and ship it from that section. He also conducted a coal yard and continued in business in Peabody until 1884. In June, 1885, he removed to the new town of Brainerd, where he established a lumber yard and also engaged in the hardware business, and in 1889 he moved his stock of goods to Whitewater, where he and his son conducted the business until 1904, when L. J. Neal bought a half interest in the business and the brothers conducted it in partnership until the death of G. W. Neal in January, 1905. After the death of his father, E. L. Neal was in Wichita for a number of years, engaged in the hardware trade and during the last few years has been in Whitewater with L. M. Pace.

Mr. Neal was united in marriage December 15, 1891, to Mrs. Lillian (Horner) DeTalente, a daughter of Dr. John Horner. She died October 17, 1904. Mr. Neal is a Republican, and has always taken a keen interest in local politics. He has been a member of the Whitewater council and for six years was city clerk. He is perhaps one of the best posted men on local history in northwestern Butler county. In 1906 the Whitewater "Independent" published a historical edition, and Mr. Neal wrote the history of that section which appeared in the edition, and it stands today as one of the most authentic historical reviews of that section ever published.

**Samuel Waterfall**, a Kansas pioneer and veteran of the Civil war, is a native of Switzerland. He was born about twelve miles south of Berne, December 16, 1843, a son of Jacob and Barbara (Weber) Waterfall, natives of Switzerland. The name Waterfall was spelled Wasserfall in Switzerland, which translated into English is Waterfall. The Waterfall family immigrated to America in 1854, and when Samuel was eleven years of age they landed in New York, and shortly afterwards went to Massillon, Ohio. After remaining there about a year they removed to Clinton Station, Ohio, and from there to Loudenville, and later to Knox county, Ohio. The father was a stone cutter and an unusually fine workman.

Samuel Waterfall was following the peaceful vocation of farming when the Civil war broke out, and President Lincoln called for volunteers to defend the Union. At the first call he offered his services, but was rejected on account of being under size, but he enlisted again August 19, 1861, and was mustered into service as a member of Company A, Twentieth regiment, Ohio infantry, and at the expiration of his term of enlistment was discharged December 6, 1863. The following day he re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer in the same company and regiment. During his long and hazardous term of service as a soldier

he participated in the following engagements: Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Iuka, Harkinsberry, Raymond, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Baker's Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Savannah, Pocatigo, Orangeburg, Cheraw, Bentonville, and at the surrender of Johnson near Raleigh, N. C., and numerous other engagements and skirmishes. During his service in the army Mr. Waterfall was with his command in nearly every Southern State, and they were at many places several times. He had many narrow escapes and was seriously wounded at the battle of Atlanta, and was on two occasions overcome by heat, once while on the firing line in battle, and another time while on the march. After the surrender of Lee and the grand review at Washington, he was discharged and mustered out of service July 24, 1865, at Camp Chase, Ohio.

At the close of the war Mr. Waterfall went to Madison county, Illinois, where his people moved while he was in the army. He remained in Illinois until the fall of 1868, when he went to Springfield, Mo., remaining in that State until 1871, when he returned to Madison county, Illinois, and followed farming near East Alton, Ill., until 1873, when he removed to El Dorado, Butler county, Kansas. The following spring he went to Harvey county, and from there to Carroll county, Arkansas, but soon afterward returned to Butler county and rented a farm in Glencoe township on the south branch of the Little Walnut, and the following year he filed on a claim of government land in that township. On February 20, 1880, he sold his claim and removed to section 2, Lincoln township, Sedgwick county, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising until 1902, when he came to Whitewater, and has been prominently identified with the community of that vicinity since.

Mr. Waterfall was married January 10, 1867, to Miss Emeline V. Childers, a native of Nashville, Tenn. She was born May 5, 1850, and is a daughter of Jacob and Jane (Scott) Childers, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Tennessee. To Mr. and Mrs. Waterfall have been born the following children: Maggie A. married Al A. Warren, farmer, Whitewater; Grace F., married W. D. Chaney, Whitewater; James S., Alton, Ill.; Effie J. married Henry N. Jessen, Whitewater; Charles J., Harvey county, Kansas; L. G., Whitewater. The eldest child, Andrew, and the youngest, Joseph R., are both deceased.

Mr. Waterfall is a Republican and has steadfastly supported the policies and principles of that party since casting his first vote for Lincoln while in the army in 1864. He has always taken an active part in local political affairs, and while a resident of Sedgwick county he served as constable and was also justice of the peace for seven years. He was elected justice of the peace in Whitewater in 1904, but refused to accept the office. In 1913 he was elected police judge and still holds that office. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was commander of the W. C. Ward Post, No. 375, Whitewater, Kans., in 1899, and since

that time has been adjutant. In 1910 he was appointed assistant deputy inspector.

Mr. Waterfall has had an eventful career as a soldier and pioneer. He was one of the early mail carriers of southwestern Kansas and an early day freighter. He carried mail from New Excelsior to Quito, and when Hickory postoffice was established he carried mail between Hickory, New Excelsior and Quito twice each week for three and three-quarter years, and is now living retired, never having fully recovered his health since the war.

**Joel Parker**, a prominent farmer of Glencoe township, and Butler county pioneer, is a native of Illinois. He was born in 1840, and is a son of George and Cynthia Ann (Rhoades) Parker. Joel Parker is one of the following surviving children, born to George and Cynthia Ann (Rhoades) Parker: Mrs. Nancy Clark; Mrs. Mary Jane Morris; Mrs. Anna Davis, all of whom reside in Alton, Ill.; Jesse Parker, Wenachie, Wash., and Joel, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Parker came to Kansas in 1870, and located in Harvey county for four years and then located in Glencoe township, where he has since been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising. He now owns 480 acres of land which is considered one of the best farms in Butler county, for general farm purposes. He has been quite an extensive stockman, and Mrs. Parker is a chicken fancier, making a specialty of Plymouth Rocks.

Mr. Parker was married in 1865, to Miss Martha Sinclair. Mrs. Parker is a native of Illinois, and was born in 1843, a daughter of Abraham and Nancy (Jones) Sinclair. Her father was a prosperous farmer in Illinois. Mrs. Parker was the youngest of a family of twelve children, and has one living brother, Alex Sinclair, who resides at Alton, Ill. To Mr. and Mrs. Parker have been born the following children, who are now living: C. E., resides at Plains, Colo.; J. E., Benson, Ariz.; Mrs. Emma Scott, Freeman, Mo., and Mrs. Cora Seward, Leon, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker located in Butler county at a time when its future was uncertain, but they always had faith in the future of this county, and they have lived to see this section of Kansas even excel their expectations. They passed through all the discouraging features and various vicissitudes incident to frontier life and, notwithstanding drouths, crop failures, grasshoppers and cyclones, they have not only survived, but have prospered, and today rank among the well-to-do and influential citizens of Butler county.

Mrs. Parker recalls the early days when they had very little farm produce to sell, except butter, and when neighbors met on the streets of El Dorado, the first question that one would ask another was, "What did you get for your butter?" Usually it was not very much, for this was before the days of the high cost of living. Even though money was scarce and luxuries almost unknown, the early pioneers enjoyed themselves, and got much out of life, perhaps more than we do today. They lived closer to nature, and were less disturbed by the rivalry of style and dis-



MR. AND MRS. JOEL PARKER AND FAMILY



play. They had no ambition to have a bigger automobile or a better hat than their neighbor, and after all, the early pioneers are not deserving or asking as much sympathy as we might think, for they were happy and lived the pure out-door life unaffected by much of the gorgeous artificial deception of a later day and age.

Mr. Parker is a republican, not of the hyphenated variety, and Mrs. Parker holds the same political views as her husband, thus insuring the immunity of this family circle against any political rows. The Parkers are well known throughout eastern Butler county, and are highly respected and have many friends.

**Albert E. Smith**, prominent farmer and stockman of Plum Grove township, is almost a native son of Butler county. He was born in Michigan on September 8, 1870, and was only two months old when his parents came to Kansas and located in Butler county. There were three other children in the Smith family who were born after their parents located in Butler county: Harvey, now living in Wichita, and Herbert, who died at the age of fourteen years, and Laura, who married Mark Wilson, Dirks, Ark. She was a Butler county teacher for a number of years before her marriage.

I. Y. Smith, the father, like most of the other pioneers of the West, had very little capital when he came to Butler county. He homesteaded and in the spring of 1871, the next year after locating here, he built a small one-room house, 12x18 feet, which is still standing.

The father's health was poor for a number of years and he died in June, 1880, and the mother, with the aid of the children, conducted the farm and thus responsibility fell to the lot of Albert E. Smith at a very tender age. His boyhood days were crowded with work and responsibility, and when he was eleven years old he raised his first crop of corn. This was in 1881, the year after his father's death. From that time on he continued to operate the home farm and in 1890 the family bought a half section of land, being the north part of section 25, Plum Grove township. This is one of the finest locations in Butler county, and is a fine productive and well kept farm. Albert bought the interests of the other heirs and is now the sole owner of this place. He is an extensive stock breeder, making a specialty of Herefords and has an excellent herd of pure bred Hereford cattle, having thirty-four head of registered cattle on hand at this writing. He also raises and feeds a great many beef cattle, feeding and shipping approximately two carloads annually. His herd of Herefords comes from the best strain of Herefords in the State of Kansas, sired by "Old Anxiety." Mr. Smith bought his original Herefords from Robert H. Hazlett, of El Dorado.

Mr. Smith was married to Miss Leona Scott, a daughter of John and Mary (Trimdle) Scott, natives of Ohio and early settlers in Cowley county, Kansas, settling there about 1876. The father was a successful farmer and stock raiser there and died in 1896, and the mother now lives in Arkansas City, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born

the following children: Wayne, Helen, Hazel and Hayward. Helen is a graduate of the Arkansas City High School. Mr. Smith is a Democrat and one of Butler county's most progressive citizens.

I. Y. Smith, the father of Albert E., was a Civil war veteran. He was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, and was reared and educated in his native State. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment and served three years. He took part in some of the most important battles of that great conflict. He was wounded on the head at the battle of Malvern Hill and at the battle of Gettysburg was wounded in both legs. His last wounds being very severe, he was afterwards discharged for disability as a result of these wounds. He then returned to his Pennsylvania home and shortly afterwards went to Michigan, where he was engaged in the lumber business, where he and his wife resided for two years before coming to Kansas. His wife bore the maiden name of Serepta Ellenberger, and was also a native of Pennsylvania. She now resides at 320 Sherman avenue, Wichita, Kans.

**John A. Hopkins**, a former sheriff of Butler county and a prominent farmer and stockman of Plum Grove township, is one of the survivors of the old time cattle men of the plains who were engaged in that business here during the days of open range. Mr. Hopkins was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 28, 1850. His father, Robert Hopkins, was a native of Maryland, born in 1832, and was a descendent of Colonial ancestors. When six years old, he came with his parents from the Maryland home to Cincinnati, Ohio, and here the family lived for many years. He was station agent for a number of years for the Miami Valley railroad, and also operated considerable farm lands on the Miami bottoms while he was in the employ of the railroad company. In 1865 Robert Hopkins migrated to Illinois with his family and settled in Moultrie county, where he followed farming until 1871, when he came to Butler county with his family and settled in Clifford township, where he spent the remainder of his life.

John A. Hopkins received his education in the public schools of Cincinnati, and was about fifteen years of age when the family removed to Illinois. He was engaged in farming there until 1873, when he came to Kansas, but the following spring, returned to Illinois, where he was engaged in the grain business until 1875, when he came to Butler county where he has since made his home. When he came here, he had about a thousand dollars in cash, his capital having been considerably reduced on account of helping his father through the bad years of the early seventies in this county. Upon returning to Butler county, he bought a homestead right on the northwest quarter of section 12, and built a two room house 14x24 feet, and proceeded to make other improvements preparatory to engaging in the cattle business. In 1877 he began to invest in the cattle industry quite extensively. There was any amount of free open range at that time, and he soon had a herd of

between four and five hundred head of cattle which he grazed over a radius of ten miles. He was the only cattle man in this immediate vicinity, and his brand, "J. H.," was known over a broad scope of country. His corral occupied about a half a section of land, and in those days, the building of a corral was a serious problem to the cattle man, as building material was scarce and barb-wire which had just been introduced, cost about twelve cents per pound.

Mr. Hopkins has continued in the cattle business up to the present time, and as free range disappeared, he conformed to the new conditions, and kept right on. In 1868, he handled 2,000 head of steers, and while he was successful with this large herd, he found many obstacles in the way of profitably handling so many cattle. The problem of water supply alone was a serious one, and in recent years, he seldom has more than 600 head of cattle on hand. He feeds a great many cattle which he buys on the Wichita market, and usually markets his cattle in Kansas City or St. Louis. For years he was an extensive buyer and shipper of cattle, hogs and sheep in addition to his feeding and farming operations. He bought Texas cattle, "On the Trail" at Wichita, buying his first bunch there as early as 1873. He next bought a bunch of cattle at Ft. Scott, Kans., and drove them across the country to his Butler county range. He now owns 800 acres of land in Plum Grove and Clifford townships, and also land in Oklahoma. He still owns his father's old homestead in Clifford township. His is one of the best farms in Butler county. He has 700 acres under cultivation, and uses both horses and gasoline tractor motor power in his farming operations. For years, he supplied the Kansas City stock yards with 3,000 tons of hay annually. His place is well equipped with all modern farm conveniences, including two silos with a capacity of 250 tons each, constructed of concrete, and they are probably the best silos in the State.

Mr. Hopkins was married in Decatur, Ill., in 1875, to Miss Emma Alice Roberts, a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, and a daughter of Charles and Catherine Roberts, natives of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins have been born the following children: Gertrude, married William Cundell, a Butler county farmer, and John A., on the home farm.

Mr. Hopkins has been a life-long Republican and has taken an active part in the local councils of his party. He was elected sheriff of Butler county in 1864, serving a term of two years, and on two other occasions, he received the nomination of his party for the office of sheriff, but there happened to be unusual conditions prevailing, such as a wave of populism, etc., and Mr. Hopkins, although popular and favorably known, was a creature of circumstances, and defeated by small margins. He is one of the best known men in Butler county, and has many friends. He has seen Butler county developed from an unpeopled plain to become one of the great counties of the State, and has contributed his part to placing this county in the front rank of the agricultural and live stock producing counties of the country.

**D. M. Elder**, a prominent citizen of El Dorado and Civil war veteran, who settled in Butler county at an early date, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Green county, that State, May 9, 1844, and is a son of James and Elizabeth (McCurdy) Elder, natives of Ohio. Elizabeth McCurdy belonged to a prominent Ohio family, and was a daughter of Daniel McCurdy who was of Scotch-Irish descent. James Elder, the father of D. M., was born near Coshocton, Ohio, when that place was a mere Indian village. He was a son of John Elder, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, who settled in Ohio prior to the War of 1812, and during that war hauled supplies for the United States army to Upper Sandusky. In 1854, James Elder migrated from Indiana to Monroe county, Iowa, driving across the plains with horse teams and oxen and a prairie schooner. He took up government land in Iowa, and later became an extensive land owner and a very wealthy man for those times. He spent the remainder of his life in Iowa.

D. M. Elder was about ten years old when he went to Iowa with his parents and was one of a family of fifteen children. He grew to manhood in Iowa and during the Civil war enlisted in Company H, first Iowa cavalry in August, 1862. This regiment operated chiefly in Missouri and Arkansas, and fought guerillas and bushwhackers, frequently coming in contact with the notorious Bill Anderson, James and Younger brothers, and William Quantrill's gang. The style of fighting in that section was not governed by any humane military code, and frequently no quarter was shown. Later they participated in the Red River expedition and afterwards were transferred to the command of General Thomas and were given about the same kind of service in Mississippi and Tennessee as they had in Missouri—fighting bushwhackers. After the close of the Civil war, Mr. Elder went with his regiment to Mexico on account of the impending trouble with France in that country. He served under Generals Sheridan and Custer there and after that affair had been disposed of, he was discharged at Davenport, Iowa, having been mustered out of service at Austin, Tex.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Elder returned to his Iowa home and attended a private school for a time, and later attended an academy at West Bedford, Ohio. He then entered Monmouth College, at Monmouth, Ill., where he took a two-year course and after taking a special course in science, he came to Kansas in 1870, and filed on a quarter section of land in Clifford township, Butler county. He bought and sold land extensively, after coming here, and at times owned over 3,000 acres of Butler county land. He was active in the early affairs of the county and interested in a number of industries. He operated a sawmill for a time and also manufactured extra good sorghum, and at the same time was interested in farming and the cattle business. He operated a stone quarry east of El Dorado, and this industry, alone, gave employment to from 50 to 100 men. In addition to his vast and varied private enterprises, Mr. Elder has taken an active interest in public affairs. In 1888,

he was elected to the Kansas legislature and was instrumental in getting many important bills through that body; among the more important ones might be mentioned the bill reducing the salaries of county officials, a bill providing for oil inspection, a bill establishing a home for army nurses and soldiers' widows, and above all, while a member of the legislature, he built up a reputation for honest legislation and clean politics. He served on a number of the important committees, and could always be relied upon to champion the cause of the people.

Mr. Elder was first married in 1874 to Miss Frances Josephine Wallace, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Thomas Wallace, a former merchant of Lawrenceburg, Ind. Two children were born to this marriage: Edith, married Bert Gorman and they now reside in California; and Alice, deceased. The wife and mother died in 1882, and in 1889 Mr. Elder married Sadie Josephine McFarland, a daughter of Andy McFarland, a Butler county pioneer. The following children have been born to this union; Ralph, a government forester in Oregon; Don, El Dorado, Kans.; Fay, a teacher at Mound Ridge, Kans.; Herbert M., a graduate of the El Dorado High School, El Dorado; and Atta Ray, a teacher in Hodgeman and Butler counties, Kansas.

Mr. Elder is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Republican, and since coming to Butler county has been prominent in the local councils of his party and has assisted with his influence, many successful candidates to county office. Mr. Elder has seen many changes in the settlement and development of southern Kansas since coming to Butler county. In 1870, he picketed a wild pony on what was then unbroken prairie, but that spot is now on one of the principal business streets of Wichita. He has always taken a keen interest and an active part in the welfare of his county and State, and supported every movement, the object of which has been for the upbuilding or betterment of the community.

**J. D. Harrison**, one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Butler county, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Shelby county in 1864, a son of Joseph and Isabelle (Banting) Harrison, natives of England, where they were married. The father was engaged in the sheep industry before coming to America in 1860. After coming to this country, he settled in Illinois, where he was also engaged in sheep raising about four years, when he removed to Missouri, where he remained until 1882.

J. D. Harrison was reared on his father's farm, and in early life, went to work by the month for stockmen, and in that way gained a thorough knowledge of the stock business. He came to Butler county in 1891, and bought a quarter section of land in Plum Grove township. Here he engaged in the stock business and later bought another quarter section, and has added to his original holdings until he now owns 640 acres, and is one of the successful and substantial stockmen of Butler county. Every dollar that he is worth, he has made himself. Beginning

as a farm hand in Greenwood county, he has become one of the prosperous men of affluence, and holds a prominent position in the business and financial world of Butler county today.

Mr. Harrison was married in 1889 to Miss Anna Lercher, a daughter of C. F. and Tirzah (Pennywitt) Lercher, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Ohio. They were married in 1870, and the following year, came to Kansas and settled in Butler county, where the father filed on a quarter section of government land. Mr. Lercher was a veteran of the Civil war, having answered President Lincoln's first call for volunteers. He died at Topeka, Kans., in 1910, where his home had been for several years, and his wife died in that city in 1907. They were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Harrison is the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison have no children. Mr. Harrison is a Democrat, and his wife is a member of the Lutheran Church at Peabody, Kans.

In addition to his broad acres of fertile Kansas soil, Mr. Harrison has various other interests. He has invested in Potwin property to some extent, and was one of the organizers of the Potwin State Bank. Altogether, he is one of the live, progressive, business men of Butler county, who are doing things worth while.

**Ora Wyant**, of El Dorado, is the most extensive manufacturer of harness and retail dealer of harness, harness sundrys, blankets, robes, etc., in Butler county. Mr. Wyant is a native of Hamilton county, Indiana, born March 22, 1868, and is a son of Isaac and Margaret (Wertz) Wyant, the former a native of Hamilton county, Indiana, and the latter of Pennsylvania. In 1870 when Ora Wyant was about two years of age, the family came to Kansas, locating in Jefferson county where the father was engaged in farming one year, when they came to Greenwood county, and took a homestead near Severy where he engaged in farming and stock raising and became one of the prosperous and influential men of Greenwood county. He died August 1, 1913, and the mother now resides at Severy, aged seventy years. When the Wyant family located in Greenwood county, the locality in which they settled was a broad expanse of unbroken prairie sparsely settled and for the first year or so there was no school in that locality.

Ora Wyant is one of a family of seven children, in the order of birth as follows: Ora, subject of this sketch; Amanda, married S. M. Dougherty, Canton, Okla.; Mattie, married Al. Dunn, and they reside in Idaho; Charles, Jackson, Mich.; Maggie, married C. W. Latta, Klamouth Falls, Ore.; Pearl, married Dr. Evans, Butler, Okla.; and Ella, married F. M. Dailey, El Dorado. Mr. Wyant spent his boyhood days on the Greenwood county farm and received his education in the public schools. He served his apprenticeship at harness making at Severy, Kans. He was a natural mechanic and from early boyhood was inclined toward the harness maker's trade, and worked at it a great deal of his own accord on the farm before he went to learn the trade

and was a good average workman in that line when he began his apprenticeship. After working in Severy for two years, he came to El Dorado in 1901 and entered the employ of B. Gibson, now deceased, as a journeyman harness maker. At that time Mr. Gibson conducted the business on North Main street in the store now occupied by Mr. Wyant.

In 1906 Mr. Wyant and A. L. Layton bought the business from Mr. Gibson and conducted it in partnership at the old stand for five years, when Mr. Wyant bought his partner's interest and since that time has successfully conducted the business alone and has built up a large trade and has many satisfied customers in El Dorado and vicinity. He was united in marriage October 14, 1908, to Miss Harriet Younkman, a daughter of G. N. Younkman, El Dorado, and they have one child: Margaret Louise. Mr. Wyant is a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Knights of Pythias, the Kansas Fraternal Citizens, the Modern Woodmen of America and he and Mrs. Wyant are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Jackson Baldwin**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Plum Grove township, was born in Hancock county, Indiana, February 25, 1853, and is a son of Thomas and Nancy (Dillard) Baldwin. The mother was a native of Indiana, her parents being pioneers of that State. Thomas Baldwin was a native of North Carolina, born in 1819. His parents were North Carolinians. His father was killed, while serving as constable of his native county. He was called to the door of his house one night, and when he opened the door, was shot. In 1829, his widow, with her family, removed to Indiana, and settled in Hancock county, which was then a wilderness. Here Thomas Baldwin, the father of Jackson, grew to manhood, and was married. In 1854, he migrated to Monroe county, Iowa, with his family. Although there was plenty of government land open to settlement in Iowa at that time, he bought 280 acres about five miles from Albia, in Monroe county. Here he engaged in farming and prospered, and he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives there. He died in 1901, and his wife died in 1910. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom were born in Indiana, and the others in Iowa.

The Baldwin family came originally from England, but for a number of generations, had lived in Ireland, from whence five brothers immigrated to America in Colonial times, three of whom settled in New York, and two went to North Carolina, and Jackson Baldwin, the subject of this sketch, is a descendant of one of the brothers, who settled in North Carolina.

Jackson Baldwin was scarcely two years old when the family settled in Iowa. He grew to manhood on his father's farm there, and was educated in the public schools. He was united in marriage, February 24, 1876, with Miss Mary Alice Elswick, a native of Monroe county, Iowa, and a daughter of William and Susanna (Scott) Elswick. The

father was a native of Tennessee, and the mother of Kentucky. The Elswick family were early settlers in Indiana, and went from that State to Iowa in 1851. The Elswicks are of German origin, and the Scott family came from Scotland. To Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin have been born two children, as follows: C. W., farmer, Plum Grove township, was born March 4, 1877; and Jennie M., born August 15, 1879, married James Snavelly, farmer, Butler county, and one child died in infancy.

Mr. Baldwin followed farming in Iowa until 1884, when he came to Kansas with his family, and located in Sedgwick county, where he spent the first winter. In the spring he bought 160 acres of land in Plum Grove township, which has since been the family home. When he bought this place there were very few improvements on it; the residence was a two room stone house with a clapboard roof, which freely admitted the snow and wintry winds. This served as the family residence for four years, when a commodious and comfortable home was erected, and Mr. Baldwin has made other improvements of a substantial nature until he has one of the best improved places in Plum Grove township, the appearance of which evinces the thrift and prosperity of its owner. Mr. Baldwin is a Republican, and has steadfastly supported the policies and principles of that party. Mrs. Baldwin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Potwin.

**A. D. Wagoner**, of El Dorado township, is not only a prominent farmer and stockman of Butler county, but he is a dominant factor in the affairs of the county. Mr. Wagoner came to Kansas with his parents when he was a child. The Wagoner family settled in Jefferson county upon coming to this State, and some years later A. D. Wagoner and his two brothers settled at Harveyville, where they engaged in the cattle business on an extensive scale. Their place was known as "Wagoner Brothers' Stock Farm," and for a number of years this was one of the leading stock concerns of the State. They handled as many cattle as any other firm in Kansas, doing an enormous business in that line.

In 1904, A. D. Wagoner, with his wife and two young daughters, came to Butler county and located on a farm a short distance south of El Dorado, in El Dorado township. This is one of the fine productive bottom land farms of Butler county. During his first few years in Butler county, Mr. Wagoner fed cattle, and while he made money in that department of animal husbandry, he has found raising and feeding hogs a more profitable business, and during the past few years he has applied his efforts to this line of endeavor with very satisfactory results from a financial standpoint. Mr. Wagoner's broad acres of fertile land are largely devoted to alfalfa and corn in connection with hog raising, and while the average farmer suffers more or less loss from dry and uncertain seasons, Mr. Wagoner is sure of a profit from some one of his three specialties, and at least comes out even in the others. He conducts his farming operations on a safe business and scientific basis, and the student of modern agricultural methods can derive the basis of a real successful plan of



conducting a farm in a profitable and practical way by following Mr. Wagoner's method.

Mr. Wagoner has seen many changes since coming to Butler county. He is a close observer and is a constant student of events. He says he remembers when thirty-five cents per bushel was considered a good price for corn, as compared with the present average price of eighty cents, and it was only a short time ago that hogs brought only from five to six cents per pound, as compared to the present average of nearly twice that much. Many other market conditions are now in proportion, and he believes that an industrious farmer has no just cause for complaint under present conditions.

Within a few rods of Mr. Wagoner's place is the station, Vanora, with switch and loading facilities on the line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, and this market facility is of inestimable value to his place as well as to the other farmers and stockmen of that immediate locality. Such close proximity of a station reduces the expense of marketing, or hauling to market, which is of great importance to the producer.

Mr. Wagoner is a strong advocate of good roads, and points to the telephone as another medium which is of great importance to the farmer and which has put a new phase on rural life; but, he says, that the telephone service, like the roads, can be improved. He has great faith in the future oil and gas development in Butler county, and is gratified to see the countless number of wells yielding the rich underground treasure. Yet, he says, "Let us not lose sight of the fact that it is the farmers and stockmen who are entitled to the credit for the great 'State of Butler' being here.

Mr. Wagoner owns one of the best farms in Butler county and is one of its most prosperous farmers and stockmen.

**John Sheppard**, now deceased, was an early settler of Fairmont township, Butler county, and bore the unusual distinction of having been a pioneer in four States. He was born in Maryland January 27, 1809, a son of Peter and Mary Sheppard, natives of Maryland. In 1818, when John Sheppard was nine years old, the family removed from their Maryland home to Muskingum county, Ohio, settling near Taylorsville. They were among the very first settlers of that section and here the father cleared land and built a cabin in the heart of the wilderness. Later he became a well to do farmer; and he and his wife died in Muskingum county.

John Sheppard grew to manhood in Muskingum county, and in 1853 removed with his wife and children to McLean county, Illinois, where he followed farming until 1857, when he loaded his family and personal effects into wagons and started west again, this time with Benton county, Missouri as his destination. He was disappointed in his Missouri venture, as that section of the State looked poor and unfavorable. However, he remained there until 1860, when he returned to Mc-

Lean county, Illinois, considerably worse off financially than when he left there. About the time he returned to Illinois the Civil war broke out. He was loyal to the cause of the Union throughout that conflict, but he was past the age limit for military service. His eldest son, O. S., however, enlisted at President Lincoln's second call for volunteers, and became a member of Company C, Ninety-fourth regiment Illinois infantry. He served under General Grant and also under Sherman, participating in thirteen important battles. He was with Sherman on his memorable march to Atlanta and from Atlanta to the sea, serving three years and six months.

John Sheppard remained in McLean county, Illinois, until 1875. He met with success in his undertakings and prospered; and although then a man past sixty-five years of age, he was still possessed with a pioneer spirit, and in 1875 turned his face to the west again and came to Butler county, Kansas. Reaching here November 11, of that year, he bought a homestead relinquishment in Fairmount township from a man named Mansfield, and engaged in farming and stock raising and proved up on his claim and remained here until his death July 7, 1880. He was a man of strong personality and an interesting and entertaining conversationalist. He was an extensive reader, and well posted on general lines of information. He was a staunch Republican and a great admirer of President Lincoln. He was one of the widely known men of Butler county, during his time here, and commanded the profound respect of all who knew him. His wife died in Illinois in 1868. They were the parents of the following children: Obadiah, born August 5, 1832, served in the Civil war as above stated and died in Chautauqua county, June 26, 1910, having settled there in 1870; Mary, born September 28, 1833, died in September, 1880; Rebecca, born February 19, 1835, died in June, 1915; Peter H., born October 26, 1836, died in 1878; Maria M., born in 1838, married Adam Lambert, Miami county, Kansas; Amy L., born September 23, 1840, and died August 22, 1907; Hannah E., born January 30, 1844, married John Starkey of Osage county, Kansas, and died in 1912; Margaret A., born September 28, 1846, is now deceased; John W., born November 7, 1848; Sophia, born December 27, 1850, now the widow of Thomas Barrett; David, born November 17, 1853, lives at Alien, Okla.; Charles E., born January 27, 1857; Ida L., born June 19, 1861. John W. and Ida L. are unmarried and reside on the old home place, which is one of the best farms in Fairmount township.

Mr. Sheppard is one of the progressive farmers and stockmen of that section. He relates many interesting events of early conditions in Fairmount township when he came here. He has a distinct recollection of a number of thrilling incidents of pioneer life, in the days when blizzards, prairie fires and grasshoppers varied the monotony of dull life on the plains, and developed the resourcefulness of the early pioneers in coping with the ever changing conditions. He is one of the substantial

citizens of Fairmount township, and well and favorably known throughout that section of the county.

**Thomas L. Ferrier.**—Closely interwoven, is the romantic and thrilling story of the great West and the lives of its pioneers. To the intrepid spirit of these men and women who came to conquer, and to whose determination, failure was an unknown quantity, we owe our present advancement. The word, fear, was not of their vocabulary. And, in the winning of the West, the race was to the strong, and life in those days was the survival of the fittest.

In the varied career of Thomas L. Ferrier, we can read the development and growth of a State; for as the individual develops, so does the country which he inhabits. Before he was of age, Thomas L. Ferrier saw life in many of its phases, and in his early life saw much of the glamor and romance of the old West. He was born near Bowling Green, Kentucky, May 30, 1845. While yet a child, with his parents, Thomas H. and Catherine (Lewis) Ferrier, he moved to Andram county, Mo., where he lived until he was sixteen years old. At that time, 1863, he joined a party of freighters who were crossing the plains from Westport to Salt Lake City. Arriving there, he found employment as a cook on a steamer plying on Great Salt Lake. To the adventurous spirit of the boy, this employment soon grew monotonous, and he turned to the mines at Silver City, Idaho, to seek his fortune, and to satisfy that irresistible desire for adventure. After a considerable time in the mines, he made a trip into Oregon, and finally drifted back to Salt Lake City. The adventurous and dangerous life of the West appealed strongly to one of his nature, and his next employment was that of a stage driver, between Salt Lake City and the Black Hills. In this employment, he spent several months, and again became a miner.

While engaged in this occupation at Silver City, he received a letter, telling of the fatal illness of his mother, at her home in Missouri, and he prepared to go to her side. After reaching Salt Lake City, he took the stage to Omaha. For some reason, no ferryman could be found to pilot him across the river at Omaha. It was the month of March, and the turbulent Missouri was full of floating ice; the prospect of swimming the muddy, rapid stream was anything but alluring, but Tom Ferrier had inherited from his French ancestors not only a love for adventure, but a will that was unconquerable, and a delay of any kind, and from any cause, was not included in his plans for the trip to the bedside of his mother. He swam the river and proceeded on his journey. After no further adventures, he arrived at the home of his parents, where he remained for some months.

But the "spirit of the West," and the "call of the wild" had taken firm hold in his nature, and the spring of 1865 found him with the outfit of a hunter and plainsman, traveling again towards the setting sun. Journeying southwest from Westport, he became more and more impressed by the charm of the country, over which he rode day after day,

with its limitless undulating expanse of tall, blue stem, as far as the eye could reach, unbroken except by narrow belts of small timbers along the streams. He was imbued with the spirit of the prairie and the desire to possess some of his land as his own, became so strong that when he reached the region of the Whitewater in what later became Clifford township, he decided to stake his claim and build a home. Here in this great open space and great distances, near the banks of the Whitewater, he built his lonely cabin. The spirit of the pioneer, the call of the wild, was a dominant feature of the Ferrier blood, and the great, unfenced country that was before him, appealed strongly to his imagination, no doubt, but he could see the wonderful future of this, as yet, almost unpeopled land. The rank growth of prairie grass, ten feet high in the draws, indicated the richness of the soil and his dream of a home and of many broad acres with himself as the owner, was not without foundation.

It is truly said, that men who attain much are dreamers, so to speak, as the attainment of their desire first takes place in the mind of the dreamer. His dream of a home and a large acreage of this fertile region became a reality. Many years before his death, Mr. Ferrier was the owner of 1,400 acres of this well fenced and well improved land—of fertile fields of corn and alfalfa. From 1865 to 1868, settlers were few, in fact, until 1868, his only neighbor was John Adams, whose cabin was five miles down the Whitewater. During those years, nature, in her wildest form, offered the only means of a livelihood, and to these few first settlers, the gun and the trap were the main dependence. One winter Mr. Ferrier shot, and trapped over 600 dozen prairie chickens, which he shipped to Westport. From 1869 to 1872, settlers came rapidly. In 1871, Mr. Ferrier was married to Mrs. Jennie B. Borbridge. She was born in Indiana, her parents, Benjamin and Jennie Ferguson, came to Butler county in 1870. They settled on a farm in Clifford township, coming from Carroll county, Indiana, of English extraction. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrier shared, alike, the life of the early settlers, and were happy and contented with their lot. They were the parents of three children, the youngest of whom was two years old, at the time of the mother's death, November 29, 1884.

Taking up the cares of business and looking after his orphaned children, to whom he was now both father and mother, Mr. Ferrier, as was his nature, put his best effort into the task before him. And in the decade following his wife's death, he added considerable to the building of the fortune for which the foundation was laid, and the little log cabin was erected on his lonely claim in 1865. In 1895 he was married to Katie Block, the second child of David and Katherine Block. She was born in Russia in 1874. Her parents, both natives of Germany, immigrated to Russia and shortly after the birth of Katherine, came to America. They settled in Florence, Kans., in 1874, and after four or five years' residence there, and at Hillsboro, they settled in Butler

county. Mr. Block died in June, 1912. The mother's death occurred in the same month, two years later, (1914.)

By his first marriage, Mr. Ferrier was the father of three children, two of whom are living: Lewis W. Ferrier, who lives in Searchlight, Nev., where he is superintendent of the Red Wing Mining and Milling Company of Nevada; Mary J. (Ferrier) Liggett, the deceased wife of J. M. Liggett, and Wm. J. Ferrier, a successful farmer and business man of Clifford township, whose home is not far from where his father settled a half century ago with a pony, a shot gun and \$26 in cash. By his second marriage, Mr. Ferrier was the father of nine children: Nellie E.; Harold H.; Leonard L.; Ida M.; Fred T.; Iva L.; Edna R.; Emma K., and Theodore L.

Thomas L. Ferrier died December 19, 1914. Thus briefly sketched is the life and career of a remarkable man. He was of the type who have truly been called empire builders.

**Howard Lathrop**, a prominent farmer and stockman and an early settler in Clifford township, is a native of New York. He was born in Genesee county, July 27, 1843, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Herrick) Lathrop. Elizabeth Herrick was a native of Newberryport, Mass., and was of German descent. John Lathrop was born in Rutland county, Vermont, in the town of Pittsford and was a son of Adgate and Martha (Clifford) Lathrop and was born May 11, 1794, and died February 22, 1887. The Lathrop family is of English descent and were among the very earliest settlers in New England. A representative of this family came to this country with the Pilgrims on the Mayflower in 1620. John Lathrop came from Pittsford, Vt., to Genesee county, New York, in 1812. That section of New York State was heavily timbered and at that time a dense wilderness, but that country has long since been far famed for its beauty of scenery and fertility of soil. He made the trip from Vermont with an ox team and cart, and was twenty-one days enroute. He cleared and improved the farm and reared his family there and spent the remainder of his life. He was a man held in high esteem by all who knew him and was one of the substantial citizens of his time. In early life he was a Whig but later became a Democrat. He held numerous offices of trust and responsibility and was prominent in the political affairs in Genesee county.

He was married to Elizabeth Herrick in 1840. She was born in Newberryport, Mass., August 4, 1810, and died in 1905. They were the parents of six children of whom Howard, the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth.

Howard Lathrop grew to manhood on the home farm in Genesee county, and received his education in the district schools. The school year consisted of four months, and his educational career, insofar as schools were concerned, ended when he was fifteen years old. He earned his first money by working for his father on the home farm at \$200 a year, and this arrangement continued for five years. He bought a

farm in Genesee county about 1865, which he later sold at considerable loss on account of the instability of the currency at that time, due to the high price of gold. However, he saved \$1,200 out of the transaction and in 1872 came to Butler county, Kansas. He bought 440 acres of school land in Clifford township from Daniel Elder, and still owns that property. He paid \$5.00 per acre for his first land, going into debt for the entire purchase price. Later he bought additional land, and now owns 1,700 acres of land in Clifford township. He has been engaged in general farming and stock raising and is one of the successful men of Butler county. Besides his farming operations he is interested in other local enterprises. He was a stockholder in the Butler County Telephone Company and is president of the Peabody State Bank. He was one of the organizers of that institution, in 1869, and has been a member of the board of directors since that time, and was vice president for a time.

Mr. Lathrop was married March 22, 1870, to Miss Jennie Young, a native of New York, and a daughter of Rev. William and Hester (Knapp) Young, natives of New York. The father was a minister in the Christian church. To Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop have been born the following children: Frank, Ida, Charles, Clifford, William Y., all of whom reside in Butler county, except Charles H., who lives just across the line in Marion county, at Burns.

Mr. Lathrop is a Republican and has taken an active part in political affairs, although the extent of his interest in office holding, so far, has been to help the other fellow. He is one of Butler county's substantial citizens and is widely and favorably known.

**Harry Turner**, a leading farmer of Fairmount township, is a native of England. He was born at Norfolk, January 29, 1851, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Davis) Turner, natives of England. His father was an Episcopalian minister and the parents died when Harry was about fifteen years old. The family consisted of Harry and a younger sister. Harry was educated in a private boarding school in Ramsgate, Kent, on the English Channel, where he received a very thorough course of instruction. In 1856, shortly after the death of his parents, when he was about fifteen years of age, he immigrated to America. After remaining a short time in New York, he went to Chicago, and then to Hobart, Ind., and shortly afterwards to Minnesota. He was in Minnesota about a year, and during that time became acquainted with some men from Kansas and when they returned to this State, he accompanied them to Miami county. When he came to this State he did not have a dollar. After working for a time in Miami and Osage counties, he came to Butler county in 1881. This appeared to be quite a new country then, compared with the present day conditions. He says, that in going from El Dorado to Fairmount township there were only two miles of road on the section line. All the rest of the way the trail ran diagonally across the section lines.

When Mr. Turner came to Butler county, he leased land for a num-

ber of years, and engaged quite extensively in cattle and hog raising. In 1900, he bought a farm on section 20 known as the old Clark place, which was homesteaded by James Clark about 1874, and the old stone barn which Mr. Clark built is still standing and is one of the old historic buildings of that section.

Mr. Turner was married in 1879 in Osage county, Kansas, to Miss Mary Dooty, a native of DeKalb county, Missouri, born in 1860. She is a daughter of J. B. and Serena (Harper) Dooty, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of North Carolina. The Dooty family came from Missouri to Kansas and settled at Lawrence shortly after Quantrill raided that town. After spending four years in Douglass county, in the vicinity of Lawrence, they removed to Osage county in December, 1868, and from Osage went to Miami county and in 1880 came to Butler county. The father, Rev. J. B. Dooty, was a Methodist minister. He died April 11, 1889. He was recognized as an able preacher and a gentleman of noble Christian character. His widow now resides in Osage county with her son. There were six children in the Dooty family, of whom Mrs. Turner is the second in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Turner is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been identified with Whitewater Lodge No. 268 for twenty-five years. He is a Progressive Republican, and for years has been active in the ranks of the Republican party, having served as chairman of the township committee for twenty years. He has served on the local school board for a number of years, and has also been clerk and treasurer of Fairmount township a number of terms. He has always been a close student of the best literature as well as of men and affairs, and there are very few standard English or American authors whose works he has not read. His favorite author is Dickens, although he greatly admires Wilkie Collins' writings. Mr. Turner has an extensive acquaintance throughout Butler county, and is one of the substantial citizens of Fairmount township who has met with well merited success.

**Oliver P. Brumback**, a Butler county pioneer and Civil war veteran, comes from an old and distinguished American family whose members participated in the Revolutionary war, under Washington. Mr. Brumback was a native of Kentucky. He was born August 17, 1830, a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Estes) Brumback. The father was a native of Virginia and a son of Peter Brumback. Peter Brumback, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in 1750, and lived to be ninety-six years old, dying April 6, 1846. He was a veteran of the Revolutionary war, serving in the Continental army throughout that long and tedious struggle of seven years, for a new Nation. He was twice wounded by British bullets, receiving one wound at the Battle of Camden. Oliver P. Brumback often discussed incidents of the Revolutionary war with his grandfather, he being sixteen years of age when the latter died.

In 1854, Mr. Brumback went from Kentucky to Schuyler county, Illinois where he was married to Miss Susan E. Allphin, a native of Schuyler county. She is a daughter of Reuben and Susan (Brumback) Allphin. Reuben Allphin was born in Boone county, Kentucky, and was a soldier in the Mexican war, in which his son William also served. The Allphin family are of French origin. Reuben Allphin was a son of Zebulon who was a native of Orange county, Virginia, where he lived at the time of the Revolutionary war but was too young to enter the service. His father was a native of France and a member of the old Bourbon aristocracy.

To Oliver P. Brumback and wife have been born the following children: Austin M., born in 1857; Mrs. Clara (Perry) Gaylord, born in 1859, and died in Texas; Virgil and Viola, twins, born in 1861; Grace, born in 1864, married George L. Haskin; Everett, born in 1866; Charles E., born in 1868; Edgar, born in 1870, served as county attorney of Butler county, being the youngest man ever elected to that office, and is now deceased; Harry W., born in 1873, deceased; George W., born in 1875, deceased; William, born in 1877.

During the Civil war, Mr. Brumback raised a company in Schuyler county, Illinois, which was mustered into service as Company F, One hundred and Nineteenth regiment Illinois infantry, and he was elected first lieutenant of the company at its organization. This company received its baptism of fire at the battle of Shiloh, and Mr. Brumback was in the thick of the fray. They then went to Jackson, Tenn., under Grant and after campaigning in the West for some time, Lieutenant Brumback's health failed, and in 1863 he resigned his commission. He also had a brother Benjamin who served in the Union army throughout the Civil war.

After resigning from the army Mr. Brumback returned to Schuyler county, Illinois, and was engaged in the general mercantile business at Huttsville, Ill., until 1870. In April of that year, he came to Butler county, Kansas, driving across the plains from Illinois, the trip requiring four weeks. After reaching here, he camped with his family on the banks of the Whitewater and filed on the northeast quarter of section 26, Milton township. He soon began to make improvements on his place and engaged in farming and stock raising and for forty-six years his home had been on this place in Milton township. His was a successful career. He never shirked a responsibility, or duty, whether it was that of father, husband, citizen or soldier. He was of the type of men of whom not only his family, but his neighbors and fellow citizens were justly proud. Mr. Brumback passed away February 8, 1916.

**N. R. Chance**, a Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer, who has spent forty years of his life in this county, is a native of Indiana. He was born in 1844, and is a son of William Chance, a native of North Carolina. N. R. Chance was one of a family of four children, two of whom are now living: William lives near Leavenworth, Kans., and





N. R. CHANCE



MRS. N. R. CHANCE



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. N. R. CHANCE, AUGUSTA, KANS.

N. R., the subject of the sketch. N. R. Chance went to Iowa with his parents when a boy. He received his education in the common schools and followed farming in Lucas county, Iowa, until 1874, with the exception of a period during the Civil war, when he served as a member of the Forty-sixth Iowa infantry, enlisting in 1864, at the age of twenty years.

At the close of the war he was mustered out of service at Davenport, Iowa, and returned to the farm in Lucas county. In 1874 he came to Kansas, locating in Butler county, seven miles southwest of Augusta, in Bruno township. It will be remembered by those familiar with the early history and discouraging days of Kansas that this was the year of the grasshopper visitation. Many settlers were discouraged and left the State following the visitation of the grasshoppers, but Mr. Chance was not the kind of a pioneer to be driven from the plains of Kansas by any ordinary type of grasshoppers. He says that even with his forty years of life in Kansas that he likes the State a little better each year than he did the preceding one. He belongs to that school of sturdy pioneers who not only made Butler county what it is, but were the builders of the great State of Kansas, and have just cause to be proud of their achievements.

When Mr. Chance settled in Bruno township he bought his claim from Daniel Golden, for which he paid \$1,000. The place was slightly improved, having a small four-room house with about twenty acres of prairie broken and some hedge. Here Mr. Chance was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising until 1899, when he removed to Augusta, where he built a comfortable and commodious residence, where he now lives. He has added to his original purchase of land, and now owns 640 acres of valuable farm land, 400 acres of which is located in Pleasant township and the rest in Bruno.

Mr. Chance was married in 1865 in Iowa to Miss Mary E. McKnight, a native of Ohio. Two children were born to this union, as follows: Mack T., a traveling salesman for the Potts Drug Company, who resides at Wichita, and Charlie C., a farmer and dairyman in Sedgwick county. Mr. and Mrs. Chance celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary December 24, 1915, in Augusta. Both their children were present and also their eight grandchildren. Mr. Chance is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security and the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is one of the substantial citizens of the county.

**Park M. Snorf**, a prominent farmer of Milton township, belongs to one of the very earliest, pioneer families of Butler county. He was born near Niles, Mich., July 6, 1855, a son of Milton C., and Mary Elizabeth (Patterson) Snorf. His mother was a native of Darke county, Ohio, and a daughter of John Patterson, who was a native of Ireland and an early settler in Ohio. Milton C. Snorf was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1830, and after reaching manhood, went to Vigo county, Indiana, where he worked on a farm and at the carpenter trade.

When the Civil war broke out, he responded to the president's second call for troops, enlisting as a private, and was later promoted to corporal. He participated in a number of important engagements, among which was the siege of Vicksburg, and he was with Sherman on his march to Atlanta, participating in the battle of Atlanta and the march to the sea. He was in the grand review at Washington at the close of the war, after which he was discharged, having served about four years. He then returned to his wife and three children, who were at the home of her parents in Darke county, Ohio.

Shortly after the war, Mr. Snorf returned to Vigo county, Indiana, with his family, where he fitted up an emigrant wagon, and in the spring of 1867, started for Kansas, and they were on the road the greater part of that summer. They first located near Lawrence, and the following April, hit the trail again, this time with Butler county as their destination, and on April 9, 1868, they reached the northwestern part of this county. Here they filed on a claim in section 36 of the congressional township, which was later named Milton township, in his honor.

The Snorf family were the first white settlers in Milton township. The father built a one room cabin, 16x20 feet on his claim, about sixty rods west of the Whitewater river. He followed farming eight or ten years here, when he removed to Plum Grove, and clerked in a general store for Stark Spencer. In 1881, Mr. Snorf, with his family, went to Oregon, but the following year, returned to Butler county, engaging in the mercantile business in Plum Grove until the new town of Brainerd was started, when he engaged in business there. About three years later he became possessed by the spirit of adventure again, and he and his youngest son started across the plains in a prairie schooner, going to San Louis Valley, New Mexico. He took up a claim there, and after remaining about two years, returned to Butler county, and engaged in the grocery business at Whitewater, continuing in that business until his death, June 10, 1904. His wife preceded him in death a number of years, having passed away November 15, 1880. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom are now living, Park M., the subject of this sketch, being the second in order of birth.

Park M. Snorf was about thirteen years of age when the family first came to Butler county, and while yet practically a young man, he has seen Butler county developed from the wild, unbroken primitive state to its present condition. He has seen much of frontier life, not only in Butler county, but also farther west. He made the trip to Oregon with the family, and passed through a wild and uninhabited country. He spent considerable time in Cripple Creek, Colo., during the palmy days there, when the gold excitement ran high. He has had considerable experience as a hunter, and recalls having killed a buffalo just a few miles west of Newton. From 1872 to 1874, he was employed as a cowboy on a Texas cattle ranch and also herded cattle in Butler

and adjoining counties. On one of his drives, he saw a great herd of buffalo, consisting of countless thousands of these animals, in fact, buffalo could be seen as far as the vision could reach. He has frequently killed buffalo, and has had lively encounters with these animals after they had been wounded.

Mr. Snorf was married March 1, 1874, to Miss Clementine Brenner. She was born in Illinois, December 1, 1853, and is a daughter of Martin and Mary A. (Shaibles) Brenner. The mother was a native of Ohio, and the father of Pennsylvania. After their marriage in Ohio, they removed to Illinois, and, during the Civil war, came to Kansas, locating at Leavenworth. Here the father engaged in freighting between Leavenworth and Ft. Scott, Ft. Gibson, Lawrence, and other points. While on a trip to Lawrence, he was informed that Quantrill was burning the town and murdering the inhabitants, but he continued his trip, and when he reached there, he found the place in ashes, and many of the inhabitants had been killed. One of the men who escaped, rode back to Ft. Leavenworth with him, and gave him a saddle which he kept for a number of years. Shortly after the close of the war, and upon the advent of the railroads, he abandoned the freighting business, and for a few years, was a guard in the State penitentiary at Lansing. In 1872, he came to Butler county with his family, where he homesteaded and spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1914, his wife preceding him in death a number of years, she having died at Leavenworth during the Civil war.

To Mr. and Mrs. Snorf have been born the following children: Mary E., born March 18, 1875, and died July 3, 1875; Ida F., married James H. Adams, El Dorado, Kans.; Minnie Esther, married William Starkey, Findley, Kans.; M. C., resides in Butler county; Effie, married Andrew O. Clawson, resides in Butler county, and Frank M., resides at home.

P. M. Snorf is a Republican, as was his father, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Snorf is one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Milton township, and the Snorf family history forms a conspicuous part of the story of Milton township and Butler county.

**J. T. Hughes** of Milton township, is one of the sturdy old pioneers of Butler county, who for over forty-five years has been a part of the life and progress of this county. Mr. Hughes was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, November 1, 1834. His parents were Jacob and Sarah (Gallagher) Hughes, natives of Virginia, the former of English and the latter of Irish descent. Jacob Hughes was a son of Thomas Hughes, an Englishman who settled in this country at an early date.

Jacob Hughes and his family removed from Kentucky to Indiana in 1838, when J. T. was four years of age. Young Hughes grew to manhood in Indiana, and on January 1, 1860, was united in marriage with Margaret Hass, a daughter of Jacob and Julia (Kinney) Hass, the for-

mer a native of North Carolina and the latter of Ohio. Jacob Hass went from North Carolina to Brown county, Ohio, with his parents when he was about eight years of age. Here he grew to manhood, and was married and reared a family of six children. At an early day he and his family removed to Indiana and settled on 160 acres of government land near Marion where the parents spent their lives.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hughes settled on a farm in Owen county, Indiana, and later removed to Howard county, Indiana, and bought a farm near Fairfield. In the fall of 1871, they fitted up an emigrant wagon, and Mr. Hughes, his wife and four children started to Kansas by the overland route. They left their Indiana home September 11, 1871, and reached Butler county October 28, 1871. After reaching here they homesteaded 160 acres of land in Milton township, and built a log cabin, 16x16 feet, and this place has been the home of the Hughes family since that time. When they settled here their claim was covered by a luxurious growth of blue stem and three small cottonwood trees were the only timber growth that broke the monotony of the broad expanse of prairie. Mr. Hughes proceeded to break the prairie and began farming and stock raising in a small way, according to the usual custom in a new country. Like the other pioneers, the first few years here were a struggle for existence. He worked for other settlers at times in order to obtain a little money for provisions, his first work being for T. J. Powell for whom he broke prairie near Peabody, twenty-two miles away. Mrs. Hughes was very much afraid of Indians in the early days, as Indian stragglers were quite frequent in that neighborhood who were roaming back and forth from one reservation to another. One day an Indian called at the house, and asked Mrs. Hughes where her husband was, and she answered that he was over there plowing, indicating the direction, but did not explain that he was twenty-two miles away. On one occasion the chief of the Kaw Indians, Thagainga, remained over night with the Hughes family while on his return trip to the capital at Washington, where he had been to see the "Great White Father," President Grant. The chief had a pocket knife which the President had presented him, of which he was very proud. In describing his visit to Washington he said: "Heap white people." When the Hughes family settled here game was plentiful, there being lots of deer and antelope, as well as small game. Their pioneer home was near one of the main traveled trails, which was followed quite extensively by Texas cattlemen, en route to and from Emporia, and they were often called upon to keep strangers over night which they invariably did, regardless of room, which was the general custom of those days.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have been born the following children: Nora, married T. A. Bowyer, Potwin, Kans.; Edward, resides at home with his parents; Hattie J., married a Mr. Shepard and is now deceased; George, deputy sheriff of Butler county, El Dorado, Kans.; and Mrs. Charles E. Sheppard.

Mr. Hughes is a member of the Masonic lodge and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, but is inclined towards independence in politics. In 1890, he was elected township assessor, and after serving two terms as justice of the peace, declined to accept that office any longer. Mr. Hughes is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county and represents that type of pioneers who laid the foundation for the great civilization, progress and prosperity of the West.

**Henry Edd Sehy**, editor of The Augusta "Bugle," was born in Springfield, Ill., in April, 1876, and is a son of Adam and Catherine (Becker) Sehy, the former a native of Germany and the latter a native of Macoupin county, Illinois. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Joseph, Ashland, Ill.; Henry Edd, the subject of this sketch; August W., Carlinville, Ill.; Mrs. Clara Kritzberger, Halstead, Minn., and Mary, who died in infancy.

Henry Edd Sehy is a graduate of Ashland (Ill.) High School. At the age of fourteen he began to learn the printing trade in the "Sentinel" office, Ashland, Ill., remaining there two years. He then went with The Illinois "State Journal," at Springfield, remaining there four years. Since then he has been in business for himself. He has started two or three papers and came to Kansas seventeen years ago and managed The "Rural Kansan," at Seneca, Kans., for eighteen months, going from there to Axtell, Kans., to the "Anchor," which he leased for four years. From Axtell he went to South Dakota, where he homesteaded 160 acres of land in Lyman, which he still owns. He went from there to Oklahoma, starting The Buffalo "Bugle," of Buffalo, which he traded for The Augusta "Bugle," in February, 1915.

Mr. Sehy was married to Gertrude Miller at Kelly, Kans., in May, 1900, and they are the parents of six daughters: Hazel, Helen, Edith, Edna, Evelyn and Nellie. Mr. Sehy says he has seven reasons for being a hustler in the business, viz: his wife and six daughters.

**George Strasser**, of Milton township, is a Butler county pioneer, although his appearance and age would not indicate that he was entitled to be classified as a pioneer, however. Mr. Strasser came here when a boy, about fifteen years old, in 1871. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., March 4, 1855. His father, Edward Strasser, was a native of Switzerland, and where he was reared and educated and served three years in the Swiss army. He married Louisa Kurtz, a native of Wurtenberg, Germany, and they were the parents of two children: Mrs. M. J. Morgan, and George, the subject of this sketch.

Edward Strasser, the father, was an artist of extraordinary ability, and in connection with his vocation, he did work in the principal cities of the East before coming to Kansas. He painted a number of celebrated pictures including portraits of Generals Grant and Sherman, Abraham Lincoln and a number of other conspicuous men of that period of the country's history. When the Civil war broke out, with true loyalty

to his adopted country, Edward Strasser enlisted in Company B, Ninety-eighth regiment, Pennsylvania infantry, and served three years; he fought under McClellan in the early part of the war, and later served under Grant in the Army of the Potomac. He was severely wounded at the battle of Winchester, which left him a cripple for life. He was a Democrat before the Civil war, but during the latter part of his life his political affiliations were with the Republican party.

In 1871 Edward Strasser and his son George, the subject of this sketch, came to Butler county, Kansas, and homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 12, Milton township, which has been the Strasser home ever since. Here the father engaged in farming and spent the remainder of his life. George Strasser was about fifteen years old at the time they came to Kansas and had spent his life up to that age in the city of Philadelphia, and the new conditions which he found on the plains, after a life in the congested city, gave him a new vision of the world, and the free open life of the prairie appealed to his spirit of liberty. He found hunting and fishing to be a pastime and that interested him much, and he became so wrapt up in hunting that he soon became a professional, and hunted quail and prairie chickens which he killed by the thousands and shipped to St. Louis markets. He soon became an expert horseman also, and hunted antelope, on horseback. When the Strasser family settled here, buffalo meat was a common article of food which was procured periodically by hunting trips, farther west, but Mr. Strasser never hunted buffalo very much.

June 1, 1894, Mr. Strasser was united in marriage to Lizzie Lunenberger, a native of Switzerland and a daughter of John and Marie (Witmer) Lunenberger, natives of Switzerland. Her mother died in her native land, and the father came to America with his children and now resides at Springfield, Mo. To George Strasser and wife have been born the following children: Fred, wire chief for the Lincoln Telephone Company, Davis City, Neb.; Mary, married Earl Furman, Clifford, Kans.; Edward and Elsie, at home. Mr. Strasser is a Republican and is a staunch supporter of that party, and takes a commendable interest in public affairs.

**M. R. Stipe**, a Civil war veteran and prominent Fairmount township farmer and stock raiser, has been a resident of Butler county for forty-three years. Mr. Stipe was born in Knox county, Indiana, in November, 1838, and is a son of William and Isabelle (Nicholson) Stipe, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Indiana. William Stipe was a son of George Stipe, a native of Maryland, and very early settler in Kentucky. George Stipe was a millwright and miller, and built the first mill of the locality in Kentucky where he settled.

M. R. Stipe was reared four miles east of Vincennes, Ind. His opportunities for an early education were limited. He was the oldest of a large family, and his father's health was poor, and thus more than ordinary responsibilities fell to the young man at an early age. He re-

mained at home until President Lincoln issued the second call for volunteers to defend the Union, when he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-third regiment, Indiana infantry, and served under Colonel Coburn in the Army of the West. His command joined Sherman's army at Buzzard's Roost, Tenn., and was at the siege of Atlanta and took part in an engagement at Wildcat, Ky., and also participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Chickmauga, Big Shanty, Burnt Hickory and Peach Tree. They were also on a campaign against Morgan in Kentucky. During all his years of military experience, he had some very narrow escapes, but fortunately was never wounded, nor taken prisoner. After three years of service he was honorably discharged and returned to Knox county, Indiana, where he worked as a farm hand about a year.

In the fall of 1865, Mr. Stipe was married to Miss Mary Jane Donaldson. She died about a year later, and in 1870 Mr. Stipe was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Mackey, a native of Daviess county, Indiana, and a daughter of Bedford and Sarah Mackey, natives of Indiana. Mrs. Stipe died August 1, 1896, and Mr. Stipe married Clara Isabelle Van Tuyl, a native of Illinois. To Mr. Stipe's first marriage was born one child, to the second, nine children were born, and to the third, five.

In 1873 Mr. Stipe came to Kansas, locating in Fairmount township, Butler county, where he homesteaded 80 acres of government land, which has since been his home. He has added more land to his original holdings and now owns three eighties, which is one of the best farms in Butler county. When he came to Butler county, he was not a capitalist by any means, but was better off than the average pioneer settler. He had about seven hundred dollars in cash and a good team. Two hundred and ten dollars went for his relinquishment, and the following year, 1874, was grasshopper year, and the balance of his little capital melted away in the devastation wrought by the army of hungry hoppers. He practically had to begin over again, and for a few years had a hard struggle. It was even a difficult matter for him to obtain seed, but he possessed the spirit of the true Kansas pioneer and was not to be discouraged. He worked hard and economized and soon the lean years passed, and he began to prosper, and became one of the substantial and well to do citizens of Fairmount township; and in his undertakings in recent years he has met with well merited success. He has won the reputation of never having shirked from a task that fell to his lot, and is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county.

**James M. Morgan**, one of the very early pioneers of Butler county, comes from an old Southern family, of English descent. Mr. Morgan was born in Moore county, North Carolina, November 14, 1848, and is a son of James and Mary (Holland) Morgan, natives of North Carolina. Mary Holland was a daughter of Edmund Holland, and her mother bore the maiden name of Allen, and both were natives of England, who settled in North Carolina at a very early day, and were among the lead-



ing families of that State. The Morgans, Hollands and Allens were all very early settlers in the Southern colonies, and prominent people, many of whom were identified with the early movement for the independence of the Colonies, and later participated in the Revolutionary war and later were prominently identified with the Civil war. James M. Morgan, the subject of this sketch, is a member of the same Morgan family as the well known Confederate general of that name.

In the spring of 1869, James Morgan, the father of James M., whose name introduces this sketch, loaded his goods on the train at Greensboro, N. C., and came directly to Kansas City, Mo. After remaining there a year, he removed with his family to Junction City, Kans., and in the spring of 1871, drove from that point with a team and prairie schooner to Butler county and filed on a claim in Clifford township, which is now owned by R. J. Morgan. The Morgan family consisted of thirteen children, all of whom came to Kansas with their parents, except the elder. The father, who was well advanced in years when he came to this county, died in June, 1892, and the mother died in May, 1912.

James M. Morgan was about twenty-one years of age, when he first came to this State with his older brother, George. He filed on a claim of Government land in the southeast quarter of section 14, Milton township, Butler county, and in due time proved up on it. Mr. Morgan was married in 1877 to Miss Pauline Strasser, a native of New Jersey and daughter of Edward and Louise (Kurtz) Strasser, the former a native of Switzerland, and the latter of Germany. The father served seven years in the Swiss army and came to this country some time before the Civil war, settling in Philadelphia, Pa. He was a painter and worked at his trade in Philadelphia and New York until the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment, serving for three years, and shortly after the close of the war came West and settled on Government land in Milton township, Butler county.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Morgan began life in their cozy stone house of four rooms, which Mr. Morgan had built on his claim in Milton township. This was an unusually spacious and comfortable residence for those days. Mr. Morgan is one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Milton township, and he has a fine farm of 160 acres, well adapted to the stock business. There is a quarry on the place from which Mr. Morgan has sold a large quantity of building stone of a very high grade.

To Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have been born the following children: Edward Allen, engaged in business at Topeka, Kans.; Arthur Louis, Harvey Oliver and John Albert, who constitute the firm of Morgan Bros., and are very extensive wheat raisers in Seward county, Kansas. Their farm was once the site of the town of Springfield, now extinct. It was a town of 400 population, with a water works system, and aspired to be the county seat of Seward county, but in the fight, came out second best, Liberal leading; and while Liberal is now a mere

county seat of the ordinary variety, Springfield is a fine, productive farm with its waving fields of wheat, contributing food to a hungry world. The other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Morgan are George Francis; Carl William, and Rose Elizabeth, all of whom reside at home. Mr. Morgan is a Democrat and a member of the Anti Horse Thief Association.

**W. J. Thomas**, a Butler county pioneer and prominent farmer and stockman of Milton township, was born in Hancock county, near Findlay, Ohio, January 22, 1858. He is a son of S. S. and Sarah Jane (Huff) Thomas, natives of Ohio. S. S. Thomas was a son of Samuel and Sabella Thomas, natives of Pennsylvania, who were pioneers of Ohio. Sarah Huff, mother of W. J. Thomas, was a daughter of John Huff, a Pennsylvanian who went from that State to Ohio at a very early day. He and his wife walked, carrying their few belongings, when they removed from one State to the other. S. S. Thomas, the father of our subject, was reared in Ohio, and when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in an Ohio regiment, and served throughout that conflict. Shortly after receiving his discharge from the army, he removed from Ohio to Davis county, Missouri, locating with his family about three miles from Gallaton, the county seat. They lived there when the James boys and other brigands were operating in that section, and were there at the time that the gang murdered Mr. Cox, the president of a bank.

After remaining a short time in Davis county, the Thomas family removed to Platte county, Missouri. When they first located in Platte county, that section was still pretty strongly Southern, and Mr. Thomas, having been a Union soldier and a strong Republican, encountered considerable political sentiment against him. Before election day he was notified that if he went to the polls and voted the Republican ticket that he would be killed, but he went to the polls and voted, and the threat resolved itself into a mere unfulfilled promise. He found out later, however, that his life had been saved through the influence of a local constable, who was a friend of his.

In 1870, S. S. Thomas, with his family, came to Butler county, Kansas, locating in Plum Grove township. Later Mr. Thomas filed on land in section 12, Milton township. Here he built a one room cabin, 12x15 feet, and proceeded to improve his place, and engaged in farming. When he came here he was poor, his entire capital consisting of a team, wagon, a large family and five dollars in cash. The first years on the plains were a continuous struggle for existence. There were crop failures, prairie fires and grasshoppers, and when they did succeed in raising a good crop there was no market for it, and while they had plenty of plain food, and feed for their stock, they were unable to get money to buy the little necessities of life, and W. J. Thomas says that when he came here with his parents, as a boy ten or twelve years old, and looked over the unlimited, barren plains; that it just appeared to him as though they would starve to death there; that while game and fish were plenti-

ful, the outlook was not very encouraging, with not an ounce of flour in sight, not even any salt. Their nearest trading point where they could buy such provisions, if they had money, was at Cedar Point, thirty miles away, and it required two days and two nights to make the trip there and back. S. S. Thomas and his boys worked hard and soon got a start in life, and he became one of the prosperous farmers and stock men of Butler county. He died in August, 1897, and his wife died, February 18, 1903.

W. J. Thomas was married December 1, 1885, to Miss May A. Corfman, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah C. (Hoover) Corfman, natives of Ohio. Jacob Corfman is a son of Conrad and Mary (Reigle) Corfman, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania, and both of German descent. Jacob Corfman grew to manhood in Hancock county, Ohio, and in 1885, when Mrs. Thomas was eighteen years old, the family came to Butler county and located at Brainerd, which was then a new, booming town, and rented a house there from S. S. Thomas, who was then keeping a hotel at Brainerd. Mr. and Mrs. Corfman were the parents of eleven children, and they now reside at Burns, Kans. After his marriage, W. J. Thomas was foreman on the Stevens cattle ranch for seven years, which was one of the largest in that section of the country, containing twenty-five sections of land. Mr. Thomas later bought forty acres of land, which he afterwards disposed of, and bought the old Thomas homestead, which has since been his home. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are the parents of the following children: Herman A.; George W.; William J.; Laura N., deceased; Donald A.; Dora J.; Charles R.; one who died in infancy; Harve A.; Anna M., and Chester C.

Coming to Kansas at the time of life which he did, W. J. Thomas had an opportunity to observe the conditions of frontier days, at a time when they made lasting impressions on his mind. He has vivid recollections of the great prairie fires which swept the plains in those days. He says, sometimes when conditions were right, prairie fires would sweep over the country, burning a section of fifty miles wide, and he is of the impression that many of them were started by the Indians. Prairie chickens were so plentiful that they frequently destroyed crops. Mr. Thomas is a Republican, and takes an active interest in local affairs, and is one of the progressive and public spirited citizens of Milton township.

**Joseph M. Satterthwaite, Jr.**, editor of The "Daily Gazette," Augusta, Kans., is one of the live newspaper men of Butler county, and while a young man, he has had a broad range of experience in the newspaper field. He has been brought up in that line of work. He is a native son of Butler county, having been born at Douglass, September 16, 1886.

Joseph M. Satterthwaite is a son of J. M. and Mattie C. (Dutton) Satterthwaite, the former a native of Maryland, and a pioneer newspaper man of Butler county, and the latter a native of Kentucky. J. M. Sat-

terthwaite, the father, is the dean of the newspaper fraternity in Butler county, and is now actively engaged in the work, conducting a paper at Douglass. He is also prominent in the political affairs of Butler county, being the present representative from his district in the Kansas State legislature.

There were six children in the Satterthwaite family, of whom Joseph is one, as follows: Ed., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Mrs. Mary Reed, Douglass, Kans.; George, deceased; Ruth, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Jennie Kiser, Wichita, Kans., and Joseph M., the subject of this sketch. Joseph M. was reared in Douglass and educated in the high school, and later took a course in journalism at Kansas University, Lawrence, Kans. He then went to work on The Wichita "Eagle," and later was connected with The Hutchinson "Gazette," Kansas City "Post," Denver "Post," and on November 1, 1915, bought The Augusta "Daily Gazette," and has made of it a real live newspaper—the kind that Augusta requires.

**Mrs. Emily Payne Ogden** is one of the notable pioneer women of Butler county. It would be a difficult matter to do justice to the story of the life and career of this noble pioneer woman in the space allotted in a work of this character. She came to Kansas at a time when the great plains stretched out before her, just as they had been left by the hand of the Creator.

Mrs. Ogden was born in Sullivan county, Indiana, January 4, 1850, and is a daughter of John and Nancy (Zink) Payne. The mother was a native of Indiana and the father was a North Carolinian of Scotch and French extraction, and the mother was of German descent. She died in Indiana in 1858, survived by her husband and eight children. In the spring of 1868, John Payne loaded his goods into a wagon, and with his family, drove to Kansas. They reached Chase county in June, 1868, where the father filed on a homestead, which he improved and spent the greater part of his life there. He died in Indian Territory in 1900. He was a man of strong character and a typical representative of the pioneers who laid the foundation for the great West. When the Civil war broke out he was intensely loyal to the Union. Although he was too old for military service, he gave his country every possible support, and four of his sons enlisted in the Union army, although one was rejected on account of physical disability. The other three served for nearly four years and were with Sherman on his history-making march to the sea. The Payne family, with the exception of one son, Isaac, came to Kansas.

In 1870 Emeline Payne, the subject of this sketch, was united in marriage with George Ogden, a native of Hancock county, Illinois. He was a son of Joseph and Martha Ogden, natives of Illinois. He came to Chase county, Kansas, in 1869, where he met and married Emeline Payne, as above stated. Shortly after their marriage they came to Butler county and filed on the northeast quarter of section 12, Milton township, and in the spring of 1871 came here to make their home, permanently. To Mr. and Mrs. Ogden has been born one child, Minnie,

born in Butler county, May 4, 1871. She was married in 1909 to L. C. Peacock, and died in February, 1910. She was her mother's constant companion, through many lonely days on the plains. They endured many hardships together, labored together and were finally rewarded by prosperity. They homesteaded a claim together in New Mexico and remained there until they proved up on it, and her death was a severe blow to her mother. In 1906, Mrs. Ogden and her daughter took a claim in Quay county, New Mexico, and Mrs. Ogden spent six years there. She bought two additional quarter sections, and now owns the 480 acres in New Mexico, besides her fine farm of 160 acres in Butler county. They were among the very first settlers in that section of New Mexico and Mrs. Ogden's land there now is considered very valuable. She has a fine fruit orchard there, which is proving to be a profitable investment.

Mrs. Ogden endured the many hardships incident to the life on the plains, in the early days when the settlers were beset by many dangers, as well as inconveniences. On one occasion while the men of the neighborhood were away on a buffalo hunt, prairie fires swept the plains, and only by the greatest effort did Mrs. Ogden succeed in saving her home. She carried water a considerable distance and saturated the prairie grass around her home, and then started back fires and in that way saved her home. She succeeded in getting the horses out of the stable which was a straw roofed affair, by putting blankets over their heads and backing them out. It would take a volume to enumerate the heroic deeds of this brave woman of the plains. When she was a girl, her father taught her to shoot and ride horseback, and even today there are few men who can handle firearms with the dexterity of Mrs. Ogden. She belongs to that type of pioneers who should long be remembered by the present and future generations.

**J. H. Havner** of Potwin, Kans., is an extensive Kansas land owner and one of the progressive men of the community. For years Mr. Havner struggled against adversity, but by persistence and industry, he finally overcame the many obstacles which confronted him until his efforts were finally crowned with success and prosperity. He was born in Raleigh, N. C., January 15, 1854, and is a son of Levi L. and Clarissa (Lenhart) Havner, natives of North Carolina. In 1858, when J. H. Havner was four years old, his parents removed from North Carolina to Iowa, and settled in Lee county. They drove the entire distance from North Carolina, which was a long journey. The Havner family was poor, they had little money, and their earthly possessions consisted of their team and wagon. They engaged in farming in Lee county, and the parents spent the remainder of their lives in that locality.

J. H. Havner grew to manhood in Iowa and remained there until he was twenty-five years old. He then started out with his team and wagon with \$15 in cash and went to Missouri, and about the first thing that he did after reaching there was to loan his \$15 to a fellow who never repaid him. He worked at almost anything that he could get to

do, and, for a time, worked for wages, and was unfortunate again, for he was unable to get his pay. His next move was to rent a small farm, which he moved to with his two horses, one cow and \$2 in cash, which he had accumulated between times. He worked hard but money was scarce, and he had no feed for his horses and very little for himself, but he struggled on, and that year, raised a good crop, but prices were low, and he only received ten cents per bushel for his corn. While raising his crop that year, he cut cordwood on shares, receiving one cord for cutting two. One Saturday night he would cut two cords of wood, and the next Saturday he would haul his wood to town, for which he received \$2, and that would pay expenses for two weeks, until he hauled another cord of wood. During that season, a man volunteered to loan him a load of corn, to be paid out of the crop, and it was paid cheerfully at the end of the season. The man who made the loan was a stranger to Mr. Havner, but saw that he needed it for his horses. He cut cordwood, laid stone wall, and, in fact, did all manner of things to earn an honest dollar, then bought forty acres of land, which he paid for within two years, and then bought eighty acres more on ten years' time at ten per cent. interest per annum. He paid that off in three years, and had saved considerable money, besides clearing and improving his farm and building a good home. About that time, his wife's health failed, and physicians advised that she go farther west, and accordingly, Mr. Havner took her to Pawnee county, Kansas, where he bought half a section of rough prairie land for \$6 per acre. This was in 1900. He improved his Pawnee county ranch for which he had paid cash.

He engaged in wheat farming there, principally, and has met with unusual success. In the last sixteen years, he has had only one total crop failure there. In the season of 1904, he and his two sons, with the assistance of three men, raised 37,000 bushels of wheat, which he sold for eighty-five cents per bushel. This is a mere illustration of the kind of wheat raising that Mr. Havner has been doing in Pawnee county. Mr. Havner and his sons are not only engaged in wheat raising, but are extensive horse breeders as well. He gave one of his sons two mares, and seven years later, the young man held a sale and sold the increase of these brood mares for \$3,500. This same son raised \$4,000 worth of wheat last year and 2,000 bushels of corn. Mr. Havner still owns his Pawnee county ranch, for which he has refused \$75 per acre. It is located eleven miles northwest of Larnard, in the Ash valley. In 1912, Mr. Havner came to Butler county and bought forty acres of land near Potwin, where he has a good, comfortable home. He says Kansas has been good to him, as before coming here, there was not a year of his life but what he borrowed money, and since coming to this State, he has never borrowed a dollar, but, on the other hand, is a money lender.

Mr. and Mrs. Havner are the parents of four children, as follows: W. S., lives in Worth county, Missouri; C. H., farmer, Worth county, Missouri; A. L., on his father's ranch in Pawnee county, Kansas; and

Mattie, wife of Clarke Barnes of New Mexico. All of Mr. Havner's children are prosperous and well-to-do. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and politically is a Democrat. Mr. Havner bought his Butler county place as a residence and expects to spend the balance of his days in retirement, as he can well afford to do. He can look back upon his efforts, and reflect that while many times the future looked discouraging, he has, in the main, been much more successful than the average man. He has worked out some fundamental principles of business, upon which his success has been built. He has an original philosophy applicable to the world of commerce and finance, which, if followed out, can only lead to success.

**Andrew Jackson Boyles**, a Butler county pioneer, and one of the largest land owners in Fairview township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Hamilton county, December 20, 1845, and is a son of Cyrus and Mary (Crall) Boyles. Cyrus Boyles was a native of Pennsylvania, and when a young man, went down the Monongahela and Ohio rivers as far as Cincinnati. He was a carpenter and cooper, and was employed in Cincinnati, building keel boats which were operated in the Ohio river. Here he was married to Mary Crall, a daughter of James and Margaret Crall, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Ohio. Thirteen children were born to this union, of whom Andrew Jackson Boyles was the eighth in order of birth.

Andrew Jackson Boyles grew to manhood in Hamilton county, Ohio, and learned the carpenter and cooper trades with his father. He was married in May, 1867, to Miss Emma Stewart, a native of Ripley county, Indiana. She was a daughter of John Stewart, a native of Ohio. In the fall of the same year that they were married, Mr. and Mrs. Boyle came west, locating in Johnson county, Missouri, where they farmed rented land for three years. In the spring of 1870, they came to Kansas, locating in Allen county, and from there they came to Butler county. They drove through, from Johnson county, Missouri, and brought eighteen head of shoats, some young heifers, and a barrel or pork, and \$50 in cash. They had a unique way of inducing the hogs to follow the emigrant outfit. Mrs. Boyles rode in a spring wagon, and now and then dropped some shelled corn in the road, and the drove of hogs followed close after her, eagerly looking for more corn. While in camp one night on Harrison creek, in Greenwood county, the hogs strayed away, and after searching in vain for them for some time, through the tall blue stem, Mr. Boyles came on without them. However, the hogs were found later in that vicinity, on a little stream which was called Hog creek, from that day.

Upon reaching Butler county, Mr. Boyles homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 11, Fairview township, and now owns an entire section in that township. He has followed general farming and stock raising, and dealt quite extensively in cattle for a number of years, and has also been largely interested in mules. He began with a small capi-

tal, and has been very successful. Mr. Boyles is a man who has a wide reputation for honesty and integrity, and has never endeavored to violate an agreement, regardless of whether the fulfillment of it meant profit or loss to him. He has always regarded his word of more value than profit. He is a man of whom it can be said, that his word is as good as his bond.

When Mr. Boyles came here, game was plentiful, and he hunted a great deal, and in fact, obtained the meat supply with his rifle, which was not only profitable but furnished him with a great deal of sport, as he was an expert marksman when he was younger.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Boyles: P. C., operating the home farm in partnership with his father; Charles, deceased; Earl Lee, resides on the home farm; and Ida, wife of John Waddell, El Dorado, Kans. Mrs. Boyles, the mother of these children, and faithful pioneer wife, departed this life January 17, 1916. She will long be remembered by her many friends and acquaintances, as well as by her immediate family, as a noble Christian woman, who bore her part nobly and well, in the pioneer days and the subsequent development of Butler county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boyles were of the hospitable kind of people who never turned a stranger from their door, and during the forty-six years that they have lived in Butler county, they have taken many weary way-farers in, and given them lodging and a square meal, and sent them on their way rejoicing. The world is made better by such people as Mr. and Mrs. Boyles, having lived in it.

**Walter Newbury**, now deceased, one of the early settlers in Milton township, and a prominent Butler county pioneer, was a native of Chemung county, New York. He was born February 9, 1822, a son of Steven and Ester (Turner) Newbury, natives of New York, and of Irish descent. The Newbury family removed to Wisconsin in 1843, and settled in Rock county. They were among the very early settlers of that county. Walter Newbury was a young man of twenty-one when he went with his parents to Wisconsin.

On February 21, 1849, Walter Newbury and Lydia Pember were united in marriage. She was born in New York, December 12, 1830, and was a daughter of Joseph S. and Mary (Thompson) Pember, both natives of New York. Joseph S. Pember, the father, died when comparatively a young man, and some years later, his widow married Daniel Farnham, also a native of New York. In the fall of 1843, Daniel Farnham and his family went from New York to Wisconsin and settled in Rock county, in the neighborhood where the Newbury family resided, and here Walter Newbury and Lydia Pember met and were afterwards married. Lydia Pember was a girl about thirteen years of age when she went to Wisconsin with her mother and stepfather.

After their marriage, Walter Newbury and his bride went to Green county, Wisconsin, and bought 160 acres of land, and while they encountered the hardships and trials of the pioneers, they were contented,

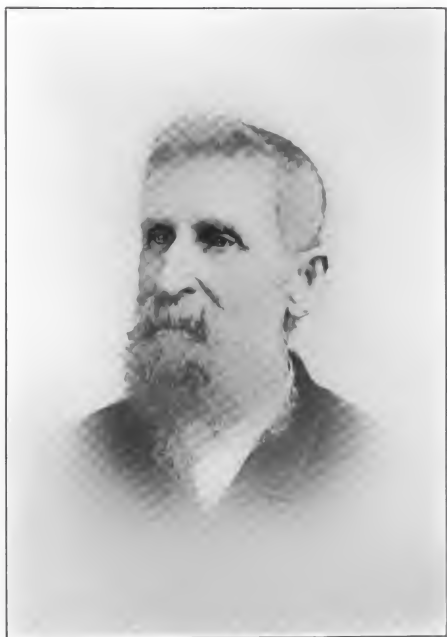


happy and prosperous. They remained in that section of Wisconsin until 1872, when they came to Butler county, Kansas, and homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 34, Milton township. They came by rail as far as Peabody, where they bought a team and wagon, and loaded up their goods and drove to their new home in Milton township. Mr. Newbury engaged in farming and stock raising, and was successful. He was a man, prominent in the affairs of his community, and was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He held various township offices of trust and responsibility, and was township treasurer for a number of years. He was active in local politics, and a devout member of the Presbyterian church. He died December 7, 1909, and thus closed the useful career of one of Butler county's respected pioneer citizens.

To Walter Newbury and wife were born the following children: E. C., Long Beach, Cal.; Adelaide, married F. B. Ewing, and is now deceased; Mary Esther, married George Tolle, El Dorado; D. S., lives on the old homestead in Milton township; John P., Troy, Kans.; R. T., present address unknown; Walter S., Portland, Ore.; Frank Maude, married Fred Betz, Long Beach, Cal. Mrs. Newbury, the mother, is now living on the old homestead in Milton township, and is one of the grand old pioneer women of Butler county. She has seven living children, twenty-eight grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren. She spends much of her time visiting her children, and has spent considerable time on the Pacific coast with her children who live there; in fact, she divides her time between Kansas and California.

**Rev. Isaac Mooney.**—The first sermon I ever heard preached in my life came from the lips of Rev. Isaac Mooney, and it gave me a favorable impression of the ministry. It was in the little old Diamond Creek school house that stood in what is now the western edge of the town of Potwin. I was about six years of age, and it was before the days of churches in northwest Butler. The country was sparsely settled, but the neighbors came from great distances to hear the sermon, which was the first to be preached in the community for a long time. I well remember the particularity with which I was cautioned by my good mother as to my behavior, and my childish curiosity as to what a sermon was like and how a preacher would look. I had heard of preachers, but had never seen one, and had only a vague idea of what a sermon was like. There were no song books in the neighborhood and the services were conducted without music. Rev. Mooney did not charge for preaching, and the "hat" was not passed. It was the primitive beginning of a religious awakening in the community. Rev. Mooney came up from Towanda about once a month to preach and the "neighbors" all attended, and if Isaac Mooney left the same impress upon others as he did upon me in my early childhood, as he no doubt did, his memory will brighten with an imperishable luster throughout all eternity.

Isaac Mooney was born in Miami county, Ohio, May 22, 1820. He died at Towanda, Kans., October 20, 1902. Coming to Kansas in 1869,



REV. ISAAC MOONEY



he purchased from J. R. Mead, the old Indian trader, the land lying south of Main street, upon which the town of Towanda now stands, and homesteaded the land north of Main street, moving thereon in 1870. In 1871 he platted and laid out the town site.

Isaac Mooney was married to Eliza Rhodehamel, of Miami county, Ohio, in 1848, and was the father of nine children: Mrs. G. W. Lane, of Pomona, Cal.; Sol R. Mooney; Vol P. Mooney, author of this history of Butler county; Mrs. Dr. F. T. Johnson, now deceased; Mrs. A. Swiggett, Walter Mooney, Mrs. E. A. Spalding, Joseph Mooney and Mrs. M. Orban, Jr. Mr. Mooney became a Christian in early life and was ordained a preacher in 1843. He never preached for pay. His first sermon in Butler county was preached in June, 1870, and he continued preaching till the time of his death. He was a farmer before coming to Kansas, preaching on Sundays in the summer time, and holding meetings every Sunday, and almost every night during the winter season. He married more than 1200 couples during his ministry and preached about the same number of funeral services.

The first funeral sermon I ever heard was also preached by Rev. Mooney in the same old Diamond Creek school house. A little baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cornelius died, and my father rode down to Towanda and notified Rev. Mooney, who came and performed the last sad rites. Strange and incredible as it may appear, I still remember the text which Rev. Mooney used, although I was very young. It read: "Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Rev. Mooney's last act was a double wedding about a week prior to his death, and it was said of him that he had either married or buried almost every one he had ever known. His patriarchal presence in the community in which he lived so long, was like a perpetual benediction, and he compelled by his goodness, his gentleness, his patience and his rectitude, the respect, affection and reverence of all who knew him, and especially of the little children, to whom his arms, like the Master's were always outstretched in sympathy and kindness.

The Walnut Valley "Times," through my beloved friend, its editor, Alvah Shelden, who attended the funeral, said: "Elder E. Cameron of Sycamore Springs, associated for a quarter of a century in church work with Rev. Isaac Mooney, preached the sermon yesterday. The attendance was the largest ever known at a Butler county funeral. He was the founder of churches, an establisher of Sunday schools, and a preacher of the Gospel, without money and without price. At his death he left surviving him, eight children, thirty grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

I seized a brief respite from the never-ending cares of business to attend the funeral myself of the good man who had preached the first sermon I ever heard, and whose daily life had ever afterwards charmed me with the perpetual perfume of its unbroken and uninterrupted good-

ness. The sentiment that possessed my heart on that occasion was shared by every person present. I have known many good and worthy men, but should I be called upon to select from among them the one who, in my opinion, had come nearest to living a perfect, unselfish, unblemished, patient, forbearing, tireless and effective Christian life, I should unhesitatingly name Rev. Isaac Mooney; and with a heart full of affection, admiration and gratitude, I pay this tribute to the rich and radiant memory of this beloved pioneer, patriarch and preacher of Butler county. His good deeds live after him.

Written by J. B. Adams.

**L. J. Fuller**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Prospect township and early settler of Butler county, is a native of Michigan. He was born in Washtenaw county, December 14, 1850, and is a son of James H. and Mary Ann (Bonny) Fuller, natives of New York State and early settlers of Michigan. Levi Fuller, grandfather of L. J. Fuller, was a Michigan pioneer and came from Utica, N. Y., to the wilds of Michigan at an early day, and here located in the wilderness and made a home for himself and his family.

In 1869, L. J. Fuller removed to Missouri with his parents and settled in Newton county. They remained there about ten years, when they came to Kansas and located at Columbus, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives, their deaths occurring within seventeen days of each other. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are now living, two daughters being dead.

In 1890, L. J. Fuller traded for the property in Prospect township, where he now resides. At first he had 320 acres, but later sold 160. He has been quite extensively engaged in the stock business and has also carried on a large dairy business. Mr. Fuller is one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of the county and has made a success of his undertakings.

Mr. Fuller was united in marriage in Newton county, Missouri, in 1874, to Miss Lucy E. Koontz, a daughter of Levi and Charlotte (Key) Koontz. Mrs. Fuller is a native of Montgomery county, Missouri. Her father was a native of North Carolina and of German descent, and her mother was a native of Virginia and of French descent. When Mrs. Fuller was six weeks old her parents drove across the plains to Iowa and settled in Clarke county, that State. After making their home there for sixteen years, they went to Newton county in 1869. The mother died in 1884, and six years later the father came to live with Mrs. Fuller, where he spent the last sixteen years of his life. He died October 12, 1902, aged eighty-two years and six months. He was a grand old man and a representative of that type of pioneers whose work is well done.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fuller have been born the following children: Fred, Peck, Kans., married Bessie Fuller, and they have two children, Alvah and Edna; William Leonard, Prospect township, married Viola

Locke, and they have two children, Ruth and Ruby, twins; Myrtle, married Frank Brown, Latham, Kans.; Levi, Latham, Kans.; Ernest, died at the age of five months; Clyde, resides at home; Mary, married William Jones, Prospect township, and they have one child, William.

Mr. Fuller is a member of the Grange and the Knights of the Maccabees. He is independent in politics and one of the substantial men of Butler county. He has taken a commendable interest in local affairs and has served as township clerk, although he has never aspired to hold political office.

**Renwick P. Ralston**, one of the successful oil men of Butler county, whose present income from that industry, can hardly be estimated, is a native of Butler county. He was born in Towanda township, October 22, 1888, and is a son of J. R. and Ida (Bennet) Ralston, natives of Ohio, and Butler county pioneers. They came to this county in 1869, and homesteaded a quarter section of land in Towanda township. The father served in the Union army through the Civil war, and is now one of the substantial citizens and honored pioneer settlers of Butler county, and has been a successful farmer and stock raiser.

Renwick P. Ralston grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the Towanda schools, and the Brumback Academy at El Dorado, and has been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising. He was one of the first to become interested in the oil and gas development of Butler county in 1914, and drilling was commenced on his first well in the latter part of November, and at a depth of 1,450 feet, gas was found in abundance. In the spring of 1915, two more wells were drilled on his place, both of which were good gas producers, and another well followed which was also a good gasser. On October 20, 1915, the fourth well was begun, and at a depth of 2,369 feet, a great oil well was struck, which, at first, flowed 2,200 barrels daily, which gradually settled down to a steady flow of 1,500 barrels a day, and he now has five producing wells, and more wells are being drilled on his place, all of which bids fair to be the richest section of the great Augusta oil field. He also has good prospective oil land in the vicinity of El Dorado and is interested in other oil property in this field.

Mr. Ralston was united in marriage January 31, 1912, to Miss Margaret L. Loncer, of Towanda. She is a daughter of Augustus and Mary (Yurgenson) Loncer, the former a native of Indiana, and of German descent, and the latter of Pennsylvania, and of Danish ancestry. Augustus Loncer came to Towanda in 1884, and engaged in the drug business, and also the general mercantile business. He was a successful man of affairs and a large land owner. He was one of the organizers of the Towanda State Bank, and was vice-president of that institution for a number of years. He died June 18, 1908, and his widow now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Ralston.

Mr. Ralston is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and since his boyhood, has showed marked business ability. His success in the oil

business is in thorough keeping with his business career and the logical outcome of well directed capabilities, and an inherent ability to make the best of opportunities as they present themselves.

**Elisha Mosier**, a well to do farmer and stockman and substantial citizen of Fairview township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Morgan county, August 23, 1838, and is a son of Eleazer and Abigail (Fall) Mosier, natives of Maine, who went to Ohio with their respective parents at an early day. The Mosier family is of English descent; Elisha Mosier's great-grandfather, Daniel, was a native of England.

Elisha Mosier was reared to manhood and educated in Ohio, and in 1866, was married to Miss Lucy Ann Eveland, a daughter of Daniel and Louisa Eveland, natives of Ohio. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Mosier lived on a farm in Morgan county, Ohio, about ten years. They then went to Iowa and settled in Wanplow county, where they remained four years, and removed to Jasper county, Iowa. They followed farming with indifferent success here until 1885, when they sold their land and came to Butler county, Kansas. Upon coming here, they bought a quarter section of land in section 27, Fairview township. This land was unimproved with the exception of a little one-room stone house, 6x8 feet. This building was torn down and the stone used in the construction of his present residence. When Mr. Mosier bought his place here, he went in debt for a large part of the purchase price. He engaged in the stock business and general farming and has met with very satisfactory success. His place is an ideal stock farm, being amply supplied with good water, and the soil is of a rich and productive character.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mosier have been born the following children: Daniel E., Lincoln county, Oklahoma; Stephen A., Lincoln county, Oklahoma; Henry, deceased; Louisa, married Frank Buckler, Lincoln county, Oklahoma; Elizabeth, married A. G. Zimmerman, and lives on the home place in Fairview township; Mary Belle, married Shirley Ratts, Reno county, Kansas; Jane, married Chas. A. Ray, Butler county; Lodema May, married Herbert Sooby, Butler county; George D., Butler county; Florence Ulda, married A. Ray, Champaign, Ill. Mrs. Mosier died February 19, 1905. Since coming to Butler county, Mr. Mosier has built up a reputation for honesty and integrity, which gives him a place among the best citizens of this section of the State.

**John F. Betz**, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Fairview township, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1861, a son of Jacob and Mary (Roule) Betz, natives of Germany, the former of Baden, and the latter of Alsace. They came to the United States when young, and they were married in Cincinnati, January 4, 1851, and resided there until 1864, when they removed to Lima, Ohio. In 1872, they came to Kansas and located at El Dorado, reaching here March 22, 1872. Here the father engaged in the hotel business, conducting the Ohio House, which stood on North Main street where the Long-Bell lumber yard is now located. Owing to depression in business, and extended credit, Mr.

Betz failed, and was practically penniless. He had bought a relinquishment from Tom Young, a stage driver, who had homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 25, and in the spring of 1873, the Betz family moved to this place, where the parents spent the balance of their lives. The father died June 27, 1902, and the mother departed this life March 11, 1909.

John F. Betz was one of a family of five children, and was about eleven years of age when he came to Kansas with his parents. He was always industrious and ambitious, and even when his father kept the Ohio House, he established himself in the shoe shining business, and in that way, saved considerable money for a boy of his age. The Betz family were poor when they settled on their claim, and it required the greatest industry and closest economy to get a start. Finally, by the co-operation of John, with his parents, they succeeded in acquiring a yoke of cattle and some farming implements, and proceeded to break their prairie. John F. Betz has herded cattle for \$3.50 per month in the early days, but he was of the type of young men who work for anything they can get, when unable to get their price. He was bound to do something. After the death of his parents, John purchased the interest of the other heirs in the estate, and later bought 320 acres of land and now owns 480 acres, which is one of the best farms in Butler county, and he is well-to-do, and one of the substantial men of Fairview township.

Mr. Betz was married in 1913 to Mrs. Myrtle Beach Kappes. She is a daughter of N. J. and Gertrude (Pierce) Beach, and is a native daughter of Butler county. Her father was a native of La Grange county, Indiana, and came to Kansas in the seventies. Her mother was a daughter of Martin Pierce, and came to Kansas from Illinois with her parents, and her father homesteaded a claim in Fairview township. Mr. Betz belongs to that determined type of pioneers who started life under difficult circumstances, and, by force of industry and business ability, has succeeded. He is a staunch supporter of the policies and principles of the Republican party, and takes a keen interest in local affairs. He has served on the school board and held the office of constable. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at El Dorado.

**R. J. Ratts**, now deceased, was an early settler in Fairview township, and one of Butler county's honored citizens. He came to Kansas in the fall of 1876, and for a time worked rented land on section 12, Fairview township. In the spring of 1880, he and his family went to Barton county, where they homesteaded a claim of government land. They remained there three years. Their crops were repeatedly destroyed by drouths, hot winds, hail storms, and they finally concluded to return to Butler county. In 1883, they sold their claim for \$400 and, later, disposed of a timber claim on Rattlesnake creek in that county, for practically nothing. Upon returning to Butler county, they bought the northeast quarter of section 14, Fairview township.



This place was practically unimproved, with the exception of a one-room shack, and a few acres of prairie had been broken. Mr. Ratts immediately began improving his place, and built a residence and other farm buildings, and among the first things he did was to set out a large apple orchard of about forty acres, and some peach trees. While the orchard was very productive under the capable and careful care of Mr. Ratts, it did not prove a very profitable proposition. It seems that apple buyers endeavor to take every advantage of the producer, and through a process of culling they swat the profits of the producer. During one season, several hundred bushels were culled from Mr. Ratts's apple production, and he found it more profitable to feed his apples to the hogs than to sell them. During the winter of 1901 and 1902, he wintered thirty head of hogs exclusively on apples, there being no other feed raised that season, on account of the drouth. Farming and stock raising were found to be profitable pursuits, and Mr. Ratts was very successful in his undertaking and made money in the stock business. In 1910, he bought an additional eighty acres, and at the time of his death owned 240 acres which is now owned by the family.

R. J. Ratts was born December 16, 1847, in Washington county, Indiana. His father, Thomas Ratts, was also a native of Indiana, and a son of Rinehart J. Ratts, who came to Indiana from Pennsylvania, and was of German descent. R. J. Ratts grew to manhood in Indiana, and when a young man, went to Edgar county, Illinois, where he had relatives. He was a vocal music teacher in early life. While in Illinois, he met and married Mary E. Coffman, a native of Edgar county, born December 9, 1847. She is a daughter of William and Lydia (Ecre) Coffman, natives of Virginia. The Coffman family came to Illinois shortly after the Black Hawk war, and the father took up government land there, in the heavily timbered country, and built a log house, which was later replaced by one of the fine residences of that county, and he and his wife spent their lives there. They were industrious and frugal people, and became well to do for their time. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom Mrs. Ratts was the eighth in order of birth.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Ratts began their married life in Edgar county, Illinois, where they bought a small farm, and in 1876, came to Kansas, as above stated. To Mr. and Mrs. Ratts were born the following children: Ada, married F. W. Gates, Los Angeles, Cal.; Shirley N., Reno county, Kansas; O. E., Fairview township; Flossie, married F. B. Lawhon, Arnett, Okla.

R. J. Ratts was a good citizen and a kind and devoted husband and father. He was deeply religious, and a faithful member of the Baptist church, and was a bible class teacher for a number of years. He was a prohibitionist in theory and practice, and an ardent supporter of the cause of prohibition. At one time he was a candidate for sheriff of Butler county on the prohibition ticket and received very satisfactory support. He died March 2, 1914, and his loss was not only felt in his own

home, but in the church, and in the community at large. Both he and his faithful wife are entitled to much credit for the part which they have taken in the development of this county. They came here and cast their lot with Butler county when, at times, the future looked unpromising, but they were of the type of people, who had a purpose and that was to make a home for themselves and future generations, and by persistence and enduring hardships, they finally won, and today Butler county is filled with prosperity and its future is not an ethereal hope, but a substantial and well founded promise of plenty.

**J. J. Johnson**, of Lincoln township, is not only known in Butler county as a successful fruit grower, but his reputation as a horticulturist extends beyond the limits of the State of Kansas. He is not only a practical fruit man, but one of the best posted men on the science of horticulture in the State. Mr. Johnson was born in Wayne county, Illinois, in 1863, a son of Dr. W. N. and Mary (Galbraith) Johnson, the former a native of Tennessee, and the later of Illinois. After graduating from medical college, Dr. Johnson located in southern Illinois, and engaged in the practice of his profession. He located at Johnsonville, Ill., beginning practice there about the time the town was founded, and it was named in his honor. He was a capable physician, being a man of a natural scientific turn of mind, and a profound student of medicine; and he attained a high degree of eminence in his profession. He belonged to the doctors of the old school, and while he was a financial success, fees with him were matters of secondary consideration. He practiced medicine for the love of his profession, and with a view of alleviating suffering. He practiced in an epoch of the history of the medical profession, before the age of specialists, multiplicity of operations and split fees. He practiced for sixty years, and on his eighty-sixth birthday, the Medical Association of Southern Illinois, gave a banquet in his honor.

J. J. Johnson was one of a family of nine children, and was the fourth in order of birth. He was reared in Wayne county, Illinois, and after receiving a good common school education, he attended college, and since that time has been interested in horticulture. In February, 1887, he located in Lincoln township, five miles north of El Dorado, Kans. Mr. Johnson began with limited capital, and has devoted himself all these years to fruit culture. He now owns of fine farm of 320 acres, well improved, with a splendid orchard of about 5,000 fruit trees. The number of trees which he has had, has varied from time to time, the maximum number being about 20,000. He has made a profound study of the science of horticulture, and is a recognized authority on the subject, and for many years, has been connected with the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, and his name appears on the pay-roll of that institution as a regular employee in conducting horticultural and agricultural experiments.

Mr. Johnson was married July 20, 1890, to Miss Myrtle May Cameron, a native of Butler county, and a daughter of John and Mary A.

(Davis) Cameron. The Cameron family came to Butler county and homesteaded in Chelsea township in 1869. Mrs. Johnson saw much of the pioneer life of Butler county when a child and remembers of having seen deer and antelope here. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born three children, as follows: Mary Alberta, principal of the high school at Lebanon, Kans.; Myrtle, a student in the State Agricultural College at Manhattan and a member of the senior class; and Dorothy Joy, a student in the El Dorado schools.

Mr. Johnson is a man who applies himself with a definite object in view. He is thorough in his work and when he formulates an ideal condition, he bends every effort to its fulfillment. Besides their fine home on the Butler county farm, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a nice home in Manhattan where they are also well known and have many friends.

**Clyde Girod**, of Fairview township, is not only the leading Holstein breeder of pure bloods in Butler county, but stands in the front rank of that industry in the United States. Clyde Girod is a native son of Butler county. He was born in Fairview township, June 26, 1886, and is a son of Irenu and Martha (Shrader) Girod. The father is a prominent farmer and stockman of Fairview township, and a pioneer of that locality. He homesteaded in Fairview township, in 1870. Irenu Girod is a native of Leige, Belgium, and a son of a Protestant French minister. Martha Shrader, the mother of Clyde Girod, is a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Jacob and Martha Elizabeth (Ford) Shrader, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter, of Kentucky. The Shrader family were very early settlers in Kansas, coming to this State from Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1859. They first settled in Jefferson county, and remained there until 1874, when they came to Butler county, and the father homesteaded in Fairview township. He died in 1900, and his wife departed this life in 1909.

Clyde Girod is one of a family of nine children, born to his parents, as follows: Jacob, farmer, Butler county; Paul, farmer, Haskell county; Philemon, Bellingham, Wash.; Irenus, Cowley county, Kansas; Clyde, the subject of this sketch; Estella, married Dare Wait, Towanda township; Mae, married Irvin Sciklebower; Harvey, resides at home, and Ernest, deceased.

Clyde Girod grew to manhood on the home farm in Fairview township, and obtained a good education in the public schools, and in 1903, entered the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans., attending that institution for three years, and was graduated. While a student at the agricultural college, he was convinced, after an exhaustive series of experiments, that the pure bred Holstein cattle possess many points of superiority over other breeds, and, in particular, in the production of butter fat. After graduating from college, Mr. Girod returned home, and took charge of his father's dairy business, in Fairview township. He bought a pure bred Holstein bull from C. F. Straw of Peabody, Kans., to head the herd of shorthorn grades, and the result was that

his calves, at two years old, were better producers than the grade cattle at maturity. He then went to Omaha, Neb., and bought a carload of pure bred heifers at an average of \$150 per head. That was the beginning of his pure bred herd of Holsteins, and he has met with unusual success. He is the pioneer of this industry in Butler county, and has developed a mammoth business. Soon after purchasing the herd at Omaha, he went to Wisconsin, and bought a carload of grade Holsteins, and sold them to his neighbors. In May, 1916, he bought the pick of the best pure bred Holsteins of the leading herds of Wisconsin, Ohio, and New York, investing \$10,000 in these purchases.

The amount of Mr. Girod's sales of these cattle is enormous, and he is known throughout the country as a leading breeder of pure bred Holsteins. He frequently sells 100 head per week, and his average sales during the year is fifty head per week. His investment in this breed of cattle, alone, is about \$50,000, and his reputation as a breeder is so generally known that orders which he received through the mail for calves alone amount to about \$2,500 per year. He sells a great many pure bloods to different agricultural colleges of the various States. His herd bull is a \$2,000 animal, and his other stock is of corresponding value.

While Mr. Girod is the leading Holstein breeder in this section of the country, his activity in the breeding world is not alone confined to cattle. He is a breeder of pure bred Percheron horses, and while he does not make an effort to specialize in this line, he is a recognized success. He is also a breeder of the original spotted Poland China hogs. One of the best proofs that Mr. Girod's customers are satisfied, and that his methods meet with public approval, and that his stock is up to the standard, is the fact that many of his sales are to old customers.

Mr. Girod owns 480 acres of land and leases 320 acres, which give him 800 acres of a stock farm, which is pretty fairly utilized by his extensive business. His cream production alone averages \$8 per day, and he employs three men the year around to assist in his work. Besides his interests in Butler county, he owns a half interest with his brother in a Cowley county ranch, which is devoted to breeding pure bred Shorthorns.

Mr. Girod was married on February 27, 1907, to Miss Blanche B. Hanes, a native of Butler county, and a daughter of Elmer and Louise (Reeves) Hanes. To Mr. and Mrs. Girod has been born one child, William Kermit. Mr. Girod is a member of the Anti Horse Thief Association, and is one of Butler county's most progressive men.

L. H. Mellor, a prominent pioneer contractor and builder of Butler county, located at Brainerd, was born in Wheeling, Va., now West Virginia, September 14, 1858. He is a son of Levi and Elizabeth (Lambing) Mellor. The father was a native of Manchester, England, born in 1814. He grew to manhood in his native land, and learned the cabinet maker's trade, and when a young man, immigrated to America with his parents,

and settled in Wheeling, Va., where he died March 29, 1858. Elizabeth Lambing, L. H. Mellor's mother, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Westmoreland county, in 1830. She died at Lone City, Cal., August 2, 1887.

L. H. Mellor was the only child born to his parents, and about a year after his father's death, his widowed mother removed with him to Somerset, Perry county, Ohio, the home of Gen. Phil Sheridan. Mr. Mellor was well acquainted with the Sheridan family. Mr. Mellor grew to manhood and was educated in Perry county, and in early life learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in that vicinity until 1885. He then came to Towanda, Kans., and after spending a few days looking over that section of the country with a view of finding a suitable location, he selected the new town of Brainerd. The railroad was building in that direction, but had not yet reached the town. When Mr. Mellor first went to Brainerd, the town consisted of one building, which was a boarding house. Mr. Mellor says that this building was a rickety old shack and there was considerable rain that season and that the roof leaked like a sieve, and it was not an uncommon sight at this boarding house to see some one holding an umbrella over a boarder while he ate a meal. Much building was in progress, and in contemplation in Brainerd and vicinity, which seemed to be a suitable location for Mr. Mellor, and he had no trouble in getting plenty of work at good wages at his trade. The next year his wife and child joined him here, and Brainerd has since been his home. He has been engaged in contracting and building practically since coming here, and he has been very successful in this line of work. Mr. Mellor has done practically all of the high class work in the way of building, in northwestern Butler county, as well as a great deal of work in Harvey county. He built every school house in Murdock township, and several in Milton and Fairview. He has done work from time to time for over thirty years for some of his patrons, and in the spring of 1916, he built his sixth house for one man. His work is done by contract, as well as by the day, and he has a reputation for close estimates and first class work.

Mr. Mellor was married May 20, 1884, to Miss Laura Leach, a native of Perry county, Ohio, and a daughter of A. B. and Matilda (Holiday) Leach, the father a native of Virginia, and the mother of Ohio. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mellor: Harry, real estate dealer, Whitewater; Mabel, married Thomas Lewis, Sedgewick county, Kansas; Edwin, Brainerd; Herbert, residing at home; Hazel, married Theodore Roth, Murdock township; Fred and Ruth, at home.

Mr. Mellor is a staunch Republican, and for many years has been active in the local counsels of his party. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Whitewater. The Mellor home at Brainerd is one of the finest residences of the town and evinces the industry and prosperity of its owner.

**Luther Reid.**—The measure of success in any line of human endeavor, is in proportion to the effort expended. This is an age-old maxim, but to the world at large, success is not all apparent; to the casual observer of the surface of life, it is impossible to determine to just what degree, this man or that man has been successful. The height of the climb up the ladder of success, depends to a great extent on the number and magnitude of the obstructions he encounters, as well as on his power to climb.

Luther Reid was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, nor reared in the lap of luxury. He began the struggle of life alone and unaided, and with little but the heritage of good honest blood in his veins, and a determination to make the most of his opportunities. He began by working on a farm for little more than his keep, and because of the lack of opportunity his early education was limited, and as a natural consequence the progress he made for several years was not great.

In January, 1870, Luther Reid was married to Sarah Kauffman in McLean county, Illinois, where he had lived a short time previously, going to that State from Ohio with his employer. Sarah Kauffman was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. Her parents, David and Rebecca (Snell) Kauffman, were of German extraction, and were both natives of Pennsylvania. In November, 1865, they left their native State and migrated to Illinois. They settled on a farm in McLean county, and here they lived the balance of their days. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Sarah Kauffman Reid was the eldest.

For fifteen years following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Reid lived on a farm in McLean county, Illinois. In the spring of 1885, they came to Butler county, Kansas. They bought the northwest quarter of section 11, Fairmount township, going in debt for the greater portion of the purchase price of the land. In the face of the vicissitudes that usually obstruct the path of the pioneer and builder of new States, their progress was slow, but steady, and with the passing of the years, their industry and faith in their adopted State was amply rewarded, and from time to time they added to the original quarter section of land until their holdings totaled 400 acres. Their farm has been improved with a two-story modern home, good barns, out buildings, and is one of the farms on which the visitor to Butler county would look with admiration.

Mr. Reid was for many years engaged in the threshing business and was one of the most successful men in that business. In connection with his general farming and stock raising, he followed threshing until a few years before his death, which occurred March 6, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Reid were the parents of eight children, as follows: Charles Reid; Thomas Reid; Minnie Reid, deceased; Frank Reid; George Reid; David Reid; Etta (Reid), the wife of S. T. Fowler; and Olen Reid.

George and Olin Reid, known as the Reid Brothers, live with the mother on the old homestead, and are successful farmers and business men. In the main their business is the live stock industry, mainly sheep

feeding and horse breeding. The breeding of top-notch Percherons receives the closest study, and in this work the results they have attained go to prove their fitness for the business. One Percheron colt of their breeding they sold at the age of eight months for \$250. The brothers began the horse breeding business after the death of the father, and have been so engaged continuously up to the present. They are well and favorably known, and each year the circle of business acquaintances and friends is widened.

**Mellville Hoss**, of Milton township, was born in Indianapolis, Ind., March 29, 1853, a son of George W. and Harriett J. (Mitchell) Hoss. The mother was a native of Portland, Me., and the father was born in Ohio. He came to Indiana when a lad with his pioneer parents, who settled in Marion county, about six miles north of Indianapolis. Here George W. Hoss grew to manhood and received a good education in the public schools and later was a student at Asbury College, now DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., where he completed the course and graduated. He ranked high as a scholar and an educator, and in 1871 was chosen president of Kansas State Normal School at Emporia. He held that position about three years, when he accepted the chair of English literature and elocution at Baker University, Baldwin, Kans. He and his wife are now deceased. They were the parents of two children, of whom Melville is the eldest.

Melville Hoss grew to manhood in Indianapolis, Ind., and received a reasonably good education, but as a boy he was never enthusiastic over his books. He longed for a big out of doors life. He wanted to be a farmer and be somewhere where there was lots of room, and when he came West with his father in 1871 and saw the broad expanse of green, rolling prairie, he longed for the out door life more than ever. In 1873, when the family returned to Indianapolis from Kansas, Melville had an interest in a feed business there, but in 1876 he came back to Kansas and raised a crop of wheat on some land that his father owned in Douglass county, and in the fall of that year he came to Butler county and bought the northeast quarter of section 16, Milton township. His intention was to raise wheat. He made the acquaintance of T. C. Henry, who was then a successful wheat grower and known as the "wheat king," but after some experimenting he decided that cattle raising was the better proposition, and later he bought another quarter section in Milton township. He began in the cattle business in a humble sort of way and soon met with phenomenal success. He began with very little capital and went heavily in debt, paying a high rate of interest, and today he is in independent circumstances, and he has been fairly successful in the cattle business. He is an extensive feeder, and his place is well equipped for that branch of the cattle business.

Mr. Hoss was married in 1877 to Miss Mary D. Baker, a native of Indiana, whose parents were early settlers in Douglass county, Kansas, and six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoss, as follows:

Georgia S., married O. H. Easley, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Walter M., a successful farmer and stockman of Milton township; H. E., also a successful farmer and stockman, Clifford township; P. W., now in Colorado for his health; S. B., conducting a cattle ranch in Barber county, Kansas, and Ruth C., at home. S. B. and Walter M. Hoss are partners in the Barber county ranch, which consists of 3,000 acres. Their plan is to raise and graze cattle on the Barber county ranch and ship them to the home farm in Milton township, to be finished for market. The Milton township place has all facilities for cattle feeding, silos, barns, feed yards, etc. The Hoss boys understand the cattle business, having been brought up in it, and inherit much of the initiative nature and ambition of their father. Melville Hoss is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and is one of Butler county's citizens who has something to show for his forty years of effort in this county. He has the gratification of seeing his sons continue the work which he has started and they are carrying it on to a greater development than he had even dreamed possible.

**H. C. Haymen**, proprietor of the "Spring Valley Stock Farm," Fairview township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Meigs county, November 19, 1863, and is a son of Hezekiah H. and Esther E. (Costen) Haymen. Hezekiah H. Haymen was an early settler in Fairview township. He was born in Maryland and was educated and grew to manhood in his native State, where he was married to Esther E. Costen, also a native of Maryland. They lived for several years in their native State, when they removed to Ohio and settled in Meigs county, first locating at Letart, and later at Racine, Meigs county. Mr. Haymen was engaged in the general mercantile business in Ohio, and met with a fair degree of success.

In the spring of 1870 he came to Kansas and filed on the northwest quarter of section 34, Fairview township. His first habitation on his claim was a dugout on the banks of a little stream called Spring Branch. He bought a yoke of oxen and a limited equipment of farming implements and proceeded to break the prairie and improve his place. However, he became discouraged, after meeting with failure under adverse conditions. His son, Robert H., had accompanied him here, while the mother and the younger members of the family remained in Ohio until the father and son had a home prepared for the family in the West. Mr. Haymen had written his wife that he and his son were dissatisfied with this country and for her not to come, but Mrs. Haymen and the other children had started before receiving the letter, and came by rail as far as Emporia, and drove the remainder of the distance to the Butler county claim, and Mr. Haymen and Robert H. were taken completely by surprise upon the arrival of the mother and the other children. However, the family decided to stay on the claim, and no thought of leaving it was ever entertained, from that time. Some of the older children, upon becoming of age, homesteaded claims, and the father spent



his life on the original homestead. He died about three years after coming to Butler county, and the mother passed away a few years later. They were the parents of twelve children. For a number of years after the death of the parents the old homestead was owned by the heirs, and in 1900, H. C., the youngest child of the family and the subject of this sketch, purchased the interest of the other heirs and the old Haymen place is now known as "Spring Valley Stock Farm," and is one of the ideal places of Fairview township.

H. C. Heyman, the subject of this sketch, was about seven years of age when he came to Butler county with his parents, and therefore has practically been reared in Butler county, and has many recollections of the pioneer conditions here when he was a boy. Coming here at the age he did, gives him the distinction of being an old settler and practically a young man at the same time.

Mr. Haymen was married on April 6, 1892, to Miss Maude H. Heath, a native of Butler county, and a daughter of John and Esther Heath, natives of Illinois and early settlers in Butler county, locating on the banks of the Whitewater at a very early day in the settlement of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Haymen have no children of their own, but they have one adopted girl, Susie Heath Haymen, a daughter of Mrs. Haymen's brother. She is now the wife of Luther E. McCulloch, of Fairview township.

Mr. Haymen is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at El Dorado, the Knights of Pythias at Towanda, and the Anti-Horse Thief Association, Fairview. Both Mr. and Mrs. Haymen are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are well known and prominent in the community.

**J. V. Leydig**, a Butler county pioneer and prominent citizen of Clifford township, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, October 24, 1859, and is a son of Joseph A. and Winnie A. (Shirer) Leydig. Joseph A. Leydig was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, January 25, 1834, and was a son of Jacob Leydig, also a native of that county, and of German descent. Jacob Leydig spent his life in Pennsylvania and was the father of ten children, of whom Joseph A. was the fifth in order of birth. Joseph A. Leydig grew to manhood in his native State, and learned the carpenter's trade. In 1858 he was married to Winnie A. Shirer and removed from Pennsylvania to Muskingum county, Ohio, where two children were born to them: J. V. Leydig and B. R. Leydig, of sketch of whom appears in this volume. When the Civil war broke out, Joseph A. Leydig, the father of these two boys, enlisted in July, 1862, in Company E, Ninety-seventh regiment, Ohio infantry, and served with his regiment, participating in a number of important battles and many engagements, and on November 30, 1864, he was killed in action at the battle of Franklin, Tenn.

On December 22, 1869, his widow married William M. Leydig, a cousin of her former husband, who was also a Civil war veteran, having

served in the Civil war in Company F, One Hundred and Forty-second regiment, Pennsylvania infantry, and was wounded at the battle of Missionary Ridge, and carried the bullet the remainder of his days, which eventually caused his death. He saw much hard service during the war. Winnie A. Shirer, the mother of J. V. Leydig, was a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Valentine and Ester (Gaumer) Shirer, natives of Pennsylvania. The Shirers are of Swiss descent, and the Gaumers came from Germany. The Shirers were prominent in the early day colonization of this country, and one of them had a grant from the English crown to establish a colony in Maryland, and later had a grant to found a colony in Pennsylvania.

In 1871, J. V. Leydig and his brother, B. R., came to Kansas with their step-father and mother. The family came by train as far as Topeka, where the father bought a team and a covered wagon and started in a southwesterly direction, finally locating on a claim which was the northeast quarter of section 18, in what is now Clifford township. Here the family began life in the wilds of Butler county. They first built a little, log cabin, 12x12 feet, about a quarter of a mile from the White-water river. Their nearest neighbor was H. H. Wilcox, who lived a mile north. Here Mrs. Leydig and her husband spent the remainder of their days.

When J. V. Leydig was a boy about fourteen years old he began to hustle for himself, and became a cowboy in the employ of H. H. Wilcox, who was an extensive cattleman, usually keeping a herd of from 1,000 to 1,500 head of cattle on the free range of the early days. Young Leydig received \$15 per month. It was the custom to drive the cattle about 100 miles south into the Indian Territory during the grazing season. Indians were plentiful in that section of the country, and trouble with them eventually forced Wilcox to withdraw his cattle from the territory. Young Wilcox shot and killed two Osage Indians whom he caught stealing beef, which was a foolish act, as it was a matter of course that it was the nature of an Indian to steal anything that he needed, and this event proved quite a loss to Wilcox, as he had to move his cattle out of the country, as above stated. Mr. Leydig lived in the saddle as a cowboy about ten years, and has experienced all the various phases of the life of the early day cowboy on the plains.

In 1885 Mr. Leydig went to Scott county, Kansas, where he took a homestead, and after proving up on it, returned to Butler county in 1887. His step-father died July 9, 1886, and when Mr. Leydig returned to Butler county the following year he took charge of the home place, which he later bought of his mother, who made her home with him until her death, May 9, 1907. Since that time he has been engaged in farming and the stock business on the old home place, and has met with very satisfactory success. He bought a quarter section of land adjoining the old homestead, and now owns 320 acres of well improved and valuable land.

When the "Strip" was opened for settlement in Oklahoma, Mr. Leydig made the race for a homestead over the old stamping ground, where he had herded cattle in the early days, and was familiar with almost every foot of it, but when he got to the claim which he had picked he found a "sooner" who had been hiding in the brush for days, holding down the claim. In recent years Mr. Leydig has devoted himself to stock raising and feeding, which he has found to be very profitable.

Mr. Leydig was married in 1897 to Miss Grace Guinty, a daughter of Michael and Saphrona Guinty. See sketch of M. Guinty in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Leydig have been born two children: Lula and James Franklin.

Mr. Leydig is a Republican and for years has taken an active part in local politics. He has served as trustee of Clifford township for eight years, and has been a member of the school board continuously for the last thirty-four years. He is a substantial Butler county citizen, and belongs to one of the honored pioneer families of Clifford township.

**E. Davis**, editor of The Whitewater "Independent," Whitewater, Kans., is one of the veteran newspaper men of Butler county. He is a native of England, born in London, May 6, 1850, a son of E. and Jane (Hargraves) Davis, natives of London, where the father was a shop-keeper. In 1869 the Davis family immigrated to America.



E. DAVIS

E. Davis, the subject of this sketch, came to Kansas in 1869 and, after spending a short time at Lawrence, came to Butler county in the spring of 1870. When he came here Emporia was the terminus of the railroad, and he walked from there to Butler county. He located on a claim of 160 acres of Government land, two miles east of Towanda, where he remained a few years. He then bought The Towanda "Herald," and conducted that paper for eight years, and at the same time was engaged in other pursuits, as the income from the paper was not sufficient

to justify him in devoting all his time to that enterprise. He then sold the "Herald" and came to Whitewater and began publishing the "Independent," which he has conducted all these years. It is one of the substantial and progressive newspapers of the county.

Mr. Davis was married July 30, 1887, to Eva Fay Eidson, a native of Wisconsin. To this union have been born the following children: Emily J. Fay, born July 24, 1888; Eva A. May, born June 29, 1890; Edmond Dillon, born September 4, 1892; Esther B., born September 8, 1900; Eidy, born January 26, 1903; Ela Francis, born October 18, 1905; Elridge Charles, born March 23, 1908; Earldon Enola, born November 25, 1910.

Mr. Davis is well known throughout Butler county and is one of our most substantial men of affairs.

**T. A. Enright**, one of Butler county's most extensive cattlemen, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Wayne county, October 8, 1861, and is a son of Michael and Katherine (Buckly) Enright, natives of Ireland. They both emigrated from their native land to Canada with their respective parents when children. They were married in Canada and later migrated to Indiana, and for a time lived in Wayne county, and later moved to Hancock county. T. A. was the youngest of a family of seven children. He grew to manhood in Hancock county and received a good education in the public schools.

Mr. Enright was married in 1883 to Miss Mary Edna Scott, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of E. H. Scott, who now resides at Burns, Kans. In 1885 Mr. Enright removed to Kansas with his family and settled in Butler county, where he followed farming for a time, but soon came to the conclusion that this country was better adapted to stock raising, at that time, and accordingly turned his attention to that branch of agriculture, and for the past twenty years he has been an extensive stock raiser and feeder. About 1902 he leased 480 acres of land in Clifford township from Lord Scully, of England, and this, added to his own land, gives him a large scope of territory for the cattle business, which he conducts on an extensive scale. He usually has from 100 to 500 head of cattle on full feed, and his business is one of the largest of the kind in Butler county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Enright have been born two children: Nora F., who married E. J. Stewart, and has two children, Mary K. and Thelma F., who make their home with their grandfather, Mr. Enright, and Roy Enright, who resides on his father's farm in Clifford township.

Mr. Enright is a Democrat and keeps himself well posted on current political events. Since coming to Butler county he has taken a keen interest in local politics, and in 1907 he was appointed assessor of Clifford township to fill out an unexpired term; in 1908 he was elected to that office, and has been elected to succeed himself for every term since that time. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in both of these lodges at Burns, Kans. In connection with his large volume of business, Mr. Enright makes frequent trips to Kansas City and Chicago and also to St. Louis, where he markets his cattle and keeps in close touch with the doings of the outside world.

**H. E. Cain.**—To impart a vivid and intimate picture of an industry there is no better method than to tell the story of the men whose lives were spent in that industry. A view of the inner workings of cattle ranching is vividly seen in the life story of Elmer Cain, who for over a quarter of a century was closely connected with the Ramsey cattle ranch. To say that Mr. Cain knew the business from the grass roots to the stock yards is not exaggerating in the least. He was born near

Rockford, Ill., December 21, 1867, the eldest son of W. H. Cain, one of the early settlers of Lincoln township, whose history is found elsewhere in this volume. Elmer had a great love for horses, and his boyish dreams were of horses, cattle and cowboys. In 1885 his father moved to Kansas, settling on a farm on the high prairie of Lincoln township, where he sought to build a home and to wrest from the unwilling forces of nature a living for his family. During the dry years of 1886, 1887 and 1888, dollars were scarce in the Cain family, and to help out, Elmer, then a young fellow of eighteen, sought employment, and following the bent of his nature, he applied to A. C. Ramsey for work on the Buckeye Land and Cattle Company's ranch, and on March 8, 1886, began a business connection which lasted for over twenty-six years.

For the first three years Mr. Cain did general farm work and learned but little of the business of handling cattle. It was owing to what he afterward thought was a lucky accident that he almost suddenly became a full fledged cow puncher. During the winter of 1888, as he was returning from church his horse fell with him. For two weeks he was laid up with a broken foot. He was lame from this injury for several months and of course this put an end to the farm work and he was transferred to the cattle department. For twenty-three years from that time the very air that he breathed was the atmosphere of cattle; his dreams by night were of cattle; in the winter, of snow storms and feed and cattle; in the long summer months, of fences, wind mills, water tanks and cattle; of loading and unloading and counting cattle; of cattle by great train loads, always of cattle; cattle of all kinds and descriptions, from the well bred Herefords to the long horned, slab-sided, thin-shanked, vicious cattle of Texas and Old Mexico.

The business of the Buckeye Land and Cattle Company was largely that of grazing the big herds of the Texas ranchers, and in the earlier days of the ranch, the herds varied from 1,000 to 1,500 head, the greater part of these being mature steers. In the early nineties the grazing lands were extended, bigger herds contracted for, and the business expanded generally. About this time Elmer Cain was made foreman, a position he held during the remainder of his connection with the ranch. During the winter from six to eight men were required to feed and look after the cattle. In the summer three cowboys looked after the fences and water, and sometimes herds of 20,000 head. It was a hard life, but spiced with excitement and danger that fascinated and held that class of men, famous with rope and horse, and noted for their cool nerve and dashing courage.

During the early years, while Cain was rather new in the cattle business, the ranch had on pasture a bunch of wild western bulls. In the fall, when the bunch was rounded up and driven to the feed lots of the owners, for some reason two of the herd were left. After a few days the strays were discovered, and arrangements were made to round up, brand and ship these two bulls. The foreman and young Cain rounded

up and drove the bulls into the big scale pen, sixteen feet wide by sixty-four feet long, with its branding chute at one end. Without any serious trouble they were driven into the pen, but were rather hot tempered and quarrelsome toward each other. The foreman held the gate to the branding chute open, while Cain, at the farther end of the scales pen, leaning far over the gate, cracked his whip at the bull nearest him, about the middle of the pen. The other bull was at the other end of the enclosure. There they stood, front legs wide apart and with lowered heads glaring at each other. At the crack of Cain's whip the bull at the farther end lunged suddenly, catching his adversary about the middle, knocking him with tremendous force against the gate over which Cain was leaning. It was all done in a few seconds. The force of the impact of the bull with the gate knocked his support from under him and Elmer found himself astride the bull and with his foot and leg wedged between the bull's ribs and the heavy boards of the scales pen. The pressure bent the rowell of his big spur around the heel of his foot, the spur probably saving his foot from being crushed. Cain lost no time in exchanging his seat on the bull's back to a safer place on the top board of the scale pen. After this display of bovine temperament the bulls walked quietly enough into the branding chute and the smell of singeing hair and seared bull hide marked the next scene in the adventure with the bulls.

Another interesting and amusing incident of his early days on the ranch was with a bunch of Texas and Cherokee cows. Some of these cows, shipped to the ranch late in the fall, were thin and in poor condition. The hard winter would not improve them to any extent, and by spring some of the poorest would sometimes be so thin and weak that they couldn't get up after lying down for a while. Helping cattle to their feet was one of the details of a day's work during the spring. Finding a cow down and unable to get up, the cowboy would roll her up "natural" and with a lift and a twist of her tail the cow was brought to her feet. Now, to a range bred Texas or Cherokee cow, fighting is just as natural as eating, and to avoid her long horns, with which she would invariably seek to impale the cowman after being lifted to her feet, the cowboy kept a firm grasp on her tail, and by giving the cow a strong pull sideways, he could get out of her way by several feet. These cows would seldom go much out of their way to attack a man. One day in the spring, Cain and two of his men were driving a small herd across the prairie, when the cattle sighted a small pond of shallow water. Into the muddy water the cattle went, half a dozen of the thinnest cows sticking fast in the deep mud around the water hole. Cain dropped his rope over the nearest cow's horns, gave the rope a turn around his saddle horn, spoke to his horse and the cow was pulled to the bank. Dismounting, he "rolled her up natural" and turned to the next cow. Standing beside his horse, with his back to the cow on the bank, he was leaning over slightly as he adjusted his loop. In an instant he was

sprawling in the dirt ten feet from where he stood. The cow he had rescued from the mud had, unseen by the other two men, got on her feet and true to her natural instinct, seeing a man on foot and within easy reach of her long horns, had used them effectively. This incident was a great joke on Elmer for a long time after.

The monotony of ranch life was broken by the occasional trips to town, which were always all day jobs. No matter how much or how little business he had to attend to, the cowboy stayed in town all day and often until late at night, though it is to his credit that Elmer Cain was not one of these revelers. On one occasion he took a bunch of horses to the blacksmith at El Dorado. With the four horses necked together and riding a big buckskin, well known to cattle men as the best "cutting horse" in the cattle country, he reached El Dorado without accident or adventure. After the horses were shod, stabled and fed in the livery barn, late in the afternoon he started for home. With the four horses necked together and with a thirty-foot rope from the middle pair to his saddle horn, he started up Main street. Not accustomed to the strange noises and sights of town life, the four horses started, first in a trot, which soon became a gallop. Thinking to check their speed, Cain pulled up shortly on his bridle reins. The big buckskin with stiffened legs, stopped instantly. Cain was always careless about his cinches, and that day was no exception, and, as usual, they were loose. The saddle was jerked from the horse's back to his ears and Cain landed in the hard street right under his horse's nose. With the skin torn from his face and blood streaming from his nose, he scrambled to his feet, slipping the saddle from the neck to its proper place on his pitching horse. Cain looked for his four horses, but they had been stopped by some men farther up the street. After washing his bloody face in ice water in L. H. Powell's office, near the scene of the accident, Mr. Cain changed his plans. Sure that the horses would go straight home, he untied the ropes which fastened them together abreast and turned them loose. Still excited, they struck the bridge over the Walnut like a charge of cavalry. Cain on his buckskin followed leisurely and about four miles overtook them where they were grazing quietly along the road.

The late summer and fall days were busy ones on the ranch. With daily telegrams from the owners to ship out of such and such a pasture so many cars of cattle to the market, the cowboy saw the strenuous side of ranch life. Late in the summer of 1897, Cain and his men were rounding up, cutting out and loading. In the bunch of cattle in the corrals was a big yellow Colorado steer with an absolute dislike for fences and close quarters, and with a great love and longing for the open range. While the cutting out was in progress this steer jumped the fence and made for a corn field. The boasted pride of the Ramsey ranch was that they never let a steer escape. Accordingly, Cain, with George Ramsey and Bill Piper, started for the corn field after the out-

law. The big steer heard them coming and out from the big weeds and corn near the creek bank he went. Cain on his buckskin was a little in advance of the others, and as he neared the creek he saw a yellow streak moving with the speed of a race horse through the corn and weeds. Putting the spur to his horse he determined to keep in sight of the steer. When the steer reached the fence he jumped into a little pasture of about 100 acres and stopped out in the open. After getting through the fence Cain waited for the others to join him, and the four riders then attempted to drive the steer to the pasture where he belonged. When they got him near the fence, in spite of their united efforts, he bolted for the open. Taking his rope down, Cain and the buckskin went after the galloping outlaw, which made for the rough ground and rocks. Intent on dropping his rope, Cain paid no attention to the ground around or ahead, and just at the brink of a steep bank of twelve or fourteen feet, he made the throw and the rope encircled the head of the steer. His plunge over the bank put a terrific and sudden force to the strain on horse and rope. The buckskin, well trained to work of this kind, kept his feet, but the sudden lurch threw Cain from the saddle with his hand doubled under him. He fell and rolled down the bank almost under the steer. About this time in the affair Piper rode up and put his rope on the outlaw and together they drove and pulled him where he was wanted.

One summer the ranch had on pasture 1,000 head of steers from Old Mexico. Among the bunch of wild eyed bad actors were a couple of outlaws, and at any round up of the herd the two outlaws would break away. At the last round up these two steers made no change in their usual habits, and when Cain, with George Ramsey and Hart Lenord, found them they were with a little bunch of natives in a rough and hilly part of the range along the banks of the creek. When the boys approached the little herd one of the outlaws broke away from the bunch and made for the rough ground up the creek. George and Hart stayed with the herd and the red outlaw, while Elmer started after the other. The big grey could outrun almost any steer, and after a spirited little chase Cain was able to rope the steer. His intention was to take the captive back to the herd, but the long horned old Mexican had other plans and they were aggressive plans, too. Evidently the rope was not a stranger to him and he sought to use it to his own advantage. With all the strength of his muscles and his 1,200 pounds of weight, he pulled the rope taut, then suddenly, with the spring of the rope, he lunged wickedly at the horse and rider. These tactics he repeated systematically time after time and more than once the horse's tail was lifted on the points of the long horns. The situation was ticklish, to say the least, but Cain, who had never before turned loose a roped steer, had no intention of doing so now. So the fight continued. With his next lunge the maddened steer crossed to rope and Cain, quick to see his advantage, stuck his mount with his spur in an earnest effort to break the neck of his wicked antagonist. Many times in a tight place, it



is the unexpected that happens. When the rope again pulled as tight as the strength of horse and steer could exert, the off strap on the saddle broke and Cain landed twenty feet from his horse, but still astride the big saddle. Never before was the situation so fraught with grave danger to the cowboy. His first act was to loosen the rope from the saddle horn and then, slipping backwards to a position behind his saddle, he raised the saddle on end and crouched behind it. The steer, making ready for another of its wicked lunges, backed up to get the spring of the rope, and finding himself loose, he ran away over the hill, while Cain breathed a sigh of relief. The fact that the black outlaw had this particular method of fighting, being one of the kind which always back up to get the spring of the rope before seeking to gore his antagonist, saved Cain's life. These adventures are only common examples of the life of the cowboy. Many situations, sometimes of almost daily occurrence, try the nerve and cool judgment of the men who follow this strenuous calling. Your cowboy is usually a man who sees the humorous side of life as well as its more somber tints. One day Elmer Cain and Hart Lenord went after a couple of two-year-olds which had crawled through the fence into another pasture. The men roped the steers, but the one on which Cain put his rope showed the stubborn side of his nature to such an extent that he simply would neither lead nor drive. Pulling the rope tight with his horse in the path leading to the gate, Cain, with his temper considerably ruffled, walked to the rear of his stubborn charge and laid hold of his last appendage. With a vigorous twist of the steer's tail, he spoke to his well trained animal, which pulled like a work horse. This heroic treatment changed the steer's mind somewhat and in this way he was taken out. While this drama was being enacted, Hart rode over the hill, and at the sight he rolled off his horse with mirth.

During the twenty-six years that Mr. Cain was in the employ of the A. C. Ramsey ranch there existed between him and Mr. Ramsey a perfect understanding and appreciation of each other's merits. Besides the perfect confidence in his ability and judgment, on which he relied implicitly, Mr. Ramsey in many ways took pleasure in showing his appreciation of a man of the Elmer Cain type. These manifestations of his regard were often shown by the gift of a fancy pair of spurs, a bridle or a fine saddle, all dear to the heart of a cowboy. Though now following the staid and tame business of farming, Mr. Cain prizes among his choicest possessions these mementos of his cowboy days and the friendship of Mr. Ramsey.

On the occasion of Mr. Cain's marriage, February 12, 1908, Mr. Ramsey presented Mr. Cain and his bride a handsome house and lot in De Graff. A fact worthy of mention, which stands forth conspicuously different from the life and character of the average cowboy, and which seems to show more clearly the strength of the character we have attempted to portray, is the exemplary habits of the man with whom this review is concerned. Although his environment was such

that the habits could easily have been formed. Mr. Cain never used tobacco or intoxicating liquor, of any kind, in his life. Instead of developing into a prodigal spendthrift, which would have been an easy road to travel, for to the average cowboy, money is of no apparent value, and cattlemen as a rule being great spenders, Mr. Cain saved his wages, and to his credit it must be said, that during those long, hard, dry years, when life on a Kansas farm was little more than a struggle for existence, it was these same wages that kept the mortgage off his father's farm.

Before he left the Ramsey ranch, Mr. Cain bought forty acres of land, two and one-half miles west of DeGraff, to which he has since added another 160, making a total of 200 acres. This farm is well improved and is directly across the road from the big ranch over which he rode for many years. Mr. Cain is now one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Lincoln township. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge at Burns and he also belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees at El Dorado.

**L. A. Hamilton**, of Fairmount township, is a Marion county pioneer who, after residing there for ten years, moved to Wilson county, where he resided for thirty-one years, thence to Butler county in February, 1912. L. A. Hamilton was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1847, and is a son of James H. and Lydia (Rowe) Hamilton, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of French and the latter of German descent. L. A. Hamilton was reared and educated in Pennsylvania, and in 1871, left his Pennsylvania home and came to Kansas and homesteaded a claim in Marion county, not far from the Butler county line. He reached here in May and got off the train at Florence at midnight during what was one of the heaviest rain storms that he ever experienced. The following morning he started out in search of a claim in Butler county, with a view of locating in Fairmount township. After walking all day through the rain he succeeded in finding shelter that night in the cabin of a claimer, which seemed to be the only one completed in that neighborhood. He kept up his search and in a few days found a suitable claim in Marion county, which he homesteaded, as above mentioned. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising, and while he generally raised good crops, it was impossible to make much money on account of poor markets and low prices. He has hauled corn to Peabody, which he sold for fourteen cents per bushel, and was cheated on the weight at that. Hogs were worth two and a half cents per pounds, and the fall following the visitation of the grasshoppers, hogs only brought one cent a pound.

Mr. Hamilton was unmarried when he came to Kansas, and for the first two years he "batched" most of the time, and on June 12, 1873, he was married to Miss Arrena Harris. She was born in Iowa, a daughter of John and Nancy (Grove) Harris, natives of Ohio, and early settlers of Iowa. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Hamilton came to Kansas and

was living with a sister when she met Mr. Hamilton. To Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have been born four children: Burton D., who resides at home with his parents; Maggie, deceased; and Pearl and Earl, twins, also living at home with their parents..

After spending about ten years in Marion county, Mr. Hamilton removed with his family to Wilson county, where he was successfully engaged in farming and the dairy business for twenty-four years and in 1912 came to Butler county. In 1912 he bought the northwest quarter of section 16, Fairmount township, where he has since made his home and followed general farming and stock raising. While living in Wilson county he owned property in this county, and now he still owns property in Wilson county.

When Mr. Hamilton came here he found a country almost in its primitive state. The great, broad, limitless plains stretched in every direction as far as the vision could reach, and the deer, the antelope and other wild game were in abundance; and the buffalo could be found in great numbers just a little farther west. Mr. Hamilton went on a buffalo hunt in 1873 in the vicinity of Medicine Lodge and killed two buffalo, and at that time great herds of buffalo roamed the plains in western Kansas and Mr. Hamilton says that he saw one herd there that contained thousands of buffalo.

Mr. Hamilton is a Republican and takes a deep interest in the well being of the community and the affairs of his county and State.

**J. E. Vandenberg**, a Civil war veteran and contractor and builder, has been active in the building world in Butler county for thirty-two years. Mr. Vandenberg is a native of New York, born in Ulster county in 1840, and is a son of Stephen and Sallie (Crispell) Vandenberg, natives of New York.

J. E. Vandenberg received a common school education, and when a young man served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade in his native State, and was thus engaged in the early sixties when the country was rent by rebellion, and the president called for volunteers to defend the Union. Like thousands of other loyal, patriotic boys of the North, Mr. Vandenberg responded to his country's call and enlisted in the Eighty-ninth regiment, New York infantry, which was commanded by Colonel Fairchild. He participated in many important battles and numerous minor engagements and skirmishes. He was at the battles of Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, South Mountain, and was with General McClellan in the Peninsula campaign, and was at the midnight capture of the fort near Norfolk, Va. His regiment was the first to enter Petersburg where they remained several months, and after having served his country faithfully and well he was honorably discharged at the close of the war. After being mustered out of service he returned to New York, and again engaged in the peaceful pursuit of his mechanical vocation.

In 1884 Mr. Vandenberg heeded the siren call of the West and came to Kansas, locating in Butler county, where carpenter work and building

has since occupied his attention. During these years he has constructed more buildings in Douglass than any other man, and he has practically built that town, including most of the churches, business blocks and dwellings. He has a well equipped shop with power machinery where he works up unfinished material into doors, window frames, mouldings, and all finishing products used in the finer class of carpenter work. He is a natural mechanic and has always taken great pride in his work. It is first nature to him, and he almost regards his tools, lathes and machinery as intelligent human beings and companions in his work.

Mr. Vandenberg was married in 1902, to Miss Sarah E. Essex. They have no children. Mr. Vandenberg is a Republican, and ever since casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, he has supported the policies and principles of that party. He is a member of the Congregational church.

**Nathan Frank Frazier, Jr.**, capitalist and banker, resides in El Dorado, the city of his birth, where he was born March 13, 1882. He is a son of the late Nathan Frank Frazier and wife, who, prior to her marriage, was Miss Emma Crook. He was reared in his native town, and there received his preparatory education in the public schools, then entered Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, Ill., from which institution he was graduated in 1903. After graduation he was employed at Kansas City, Mo., for a short time, and then returned to El Dorado, where he became associated with his father, and assisted him in handling the latter's extensive business interests. In 1905 he, with his father and brother, Ray E. Frazier acquired large oil properties in southeastern Kansas and Oklahoma, and organized several oil companies, with headquarters at Bartelsville, Okla. Our subject became an officer and director in these companies and still retains those interests, which have increased in value and have been very profitable.

Mr. Frazier is active vice president and one of the largest stockholders in the Citizens State Bank of El Dorado, and is active in the conduct of the daily affairs of that institution. He also has large holdings in farm and grazing lands in Kansas and Oklahoma, and owns and operates a farm comprising 1,000 acres, a few miles south of El Dorado. This farm includes in its acreage some of the richest bottom land in the State, equipped with the most modern improvements, and, in fact, is one of the model farms of the State.

On September 28, 1905, Mr. Frazier was united in marriage to Zona, daughter of Harry T. Brown, of El Dorado, and to their union have been born three children: Sarah Margaret, born January 10, 1909; Mrs. Frazier comes from one of the best families of the State, and is a prominent and popular participant of the social life of El Dorado. Her pleasant home is often the scene of gracious hospitality. Mr. Frazier is a prominent member of the different Masonic organizations, being a member of Patmos Lodge No. 79, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; El Dorado Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; a Scottish Rite Mason of Wichita Consistory, No. 2, and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, Midian

temple, of Wichita. He is also a member of Wichita Lodge No. 427, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Frazier has inherited much of his father's business acumen and ability, which, added to the excellent training received from the latter in the direction of his large and varied interests, has well fitted him to carry forward the prestige, which the Frazier family has attained as financiers in the commercial world.

**Ray E. Frazier**, president of the Citizens State Bank of El Dorado, Kans., was born in El Dorado, September 15, 1876. He is the eldest son of the late Nathan Frank Frazier and Emma (Crook) Frazier. He received his education in the public schools of El Dorado and at Wentworth Military Academy, Lexington, Mo., graduating at the latter school in 1899. He began his business training as an employee in a minor position in the Merchants National Bank, of which his father was president. There he evinced an aptitude for a business life and applied himself so earnestly to his duties that upon the organization of the Citizens State Bank he was made assistant cashier and then vice president. On the death of his father in 1907, he succeeded him as president of the bank and has ably carried forward the extensive interests of that institution. He has inherited his father's keen business insight, and is possessed of a pleasing personality and a faculty of making friends and holding them. He has extensive interests in oil and farm lands in Kansas and Oklahoma, and owns valuable farm lands in Missouri.

On June 17, 1903, Mr. Frazier married Miss Henrietta Ellet, daughter of Edward C. Ellet, the former banking associate of Mr. Frazier's father. Mr. Ellet, for many years a resident of El Dorado, is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Frazier have one child: Henrietta, born November 13, 1905. Notwithstanding the arduous duties attendant to his large business interests, Mr. Frazier finds time to participate in the social and fraternal life of El Dorado, and the love of athletics and outdoor sports gained in college days is still indulged, principally by hunting and fishing.

In politics he is a Republican. He has attained to the Scottish Rite degree in Masonry and is affiliated with Midian Temple Shrine, Wichita. Mrs. Frazier, a woman of culture and of rare, personal qualities of friendship, is a recognized social leader in El Dorado, and presides with charming grace and hospitality in a delightful home.

**Nathan Frank Frazier.**—To have accomplished so notable a work as did the late Nathan F. Frazier, in connection with Kansas banking, would prove sufficient to give precedence and reputation to any man, were this to represent the sum total of his efforts; but Mr. Frazier was a man of broad mental ken, strong initiative, and distinct individuality, who left not only a lasting impression in the field of enterprise mentioned but also was a most potent factor in the commercial and agricultural development of southern Kansas, and his activities were of importance in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Nathan F. Frazier was a native of Iowa, born on his father's farm, in Henry county, near the town of Salem, October 13, 1846, a son of Francis H. and Lydia (Fisher) Frazier. The father was a native of Indiana and a descendant of an old Quaker family, antedating the Revolutionary war. He removed from Indiana to Iowa prior to its organization as a territory, becoming one of its earliest pioneers. Of the children of Francis H. and his wife, four survive: Mrs. Caroline Campbell, Mrs. Charlotte Williams and Levi Frazier, residents of Salem, Iowa; and Seth Frazier, of El Dorado, Kans.

The childhood of Nathan F. Frazier was spent on his father's farm in Iowa, and his early education was obtained in the district schools of his native country. Early in the sixties, while yet in his teens, he left home to become a wage earner, his equipment consisting of a pair of willing hands and a stout heart. In company with another boy from his home neighborhood, he journeyed to Kansas, and secured employment as a driver for the Ben Halliday stage line, their route running from Hays, westward. Indians and numerous outlaws frequented the section and the occupation was one of hazard, so much so that the stages ran, two together, one for passengers and the other carrying soldiers as guards. Later, Mr. Frazier and John Betts purchased a wagon train, and with oxen as motive power freighted to California. The direct result of his schooling among frontiersmen and all classes who broke the way for civilization was made manifest in his after life, by his firmness and coolness under all conditions, his quick and ready insight and unerring judgment and his keen perception of human nature.

In 1868 Mr. Frazier and his associate, Mr. Betts, disposed of their freighting equipment and, with a combined capital of \$3,000, located in El Dorado, where they engaged in the grocery business, Mr. Betts attending to the selling, while Mr. Frazier hauled the goods from Leavenworth, Lawrence and Emporia. The Osage Trust and the Diminished Reserve Lands had just been opened and settlers were flocking into the rich Walnut Valley; various industries were springing up in El Dorado, and their business was a profitable one. Mr. Frazier took up a homestead on Turkey creek and spent a portion of his time there, in farming. Later, with C. M. Foulke, he engaged in the general merchandise business. His initial enterprise in the field of banking, in which he afterward realized more than State-wide prominence, was in 1880, when, with Gen. A. W. Ellet, he established the Bank of El Dorado, as a private concern, with a capital of \$10,000. This business was disposed of, in 1885, to W. T. Clancy, and Mr. Frazier organized the Merchants Bank of El Dorado, of which Gen. Alfred W. Ellet was president and he cashier. This later became the Merchants National Bank and absorbed the Exchange National, the merged institutions becoming the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of El Dorado, with Mr. Frazier as president. In 1899 Mr. Frazier disposed of his holdings in the institution and organized the Citizens State Bank of El Dorado, known as the Frazier

Bank, in which he was the dominant executive until his death, in 1907, and which, during the nine years of his management, became the largest, as regards deposits, in Butler county. His record in the establishment, conduct and success of banks in Butler county is without parallel, and he was justly proud of his reputation as a banker. He had early in life acquired the habit, desire and love of making money. His shrewd business judgment, keen insight in business affairs and his knowledge of men and things, coupled with his indomitable will and energy, enabled him to rank with the leading financiers of the West. He held extensive commercial relations, aside from his banking interests, having mining interests in lead and zinc at Joplin, Mo., stocks in street railway and other corporations, and large bodies of valuable farming lands in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. He organized and was president for many years of the Oklahoma Mortgage & Trust Company of Guthrie, Okla., which did a large and exceedingly profitable business. In 1896 he purchased from the receiver, Maj. W. N. Ewing, the assets of the Wichita National Bank, comprising some of the most valuable, improved business property in Wichita and paid all claims against the failed institution in full, realizing a handsome profit from the holdings. He also, for a number of years had valuable hay contracts with the Kansas City Stock Yards Company, buying extensively in Kansas and adjoining States. He was an ambitious and tireless worker, conservative in his business methods, and his business integrity and honesty were unquestioned. He left at his death one of the largest estates in Kansas, an estate which represents the brain, pluck and energy of one man who, with his peculiar, natural tact, ever saw the propitious moment and availed himself of it.

Though essentially a business man, Mr. Frazier was interested in public affairs, and during the course of his career served as city councilman of El Dorado, as postmaster, and as auditor of Butler county. In politics he was a Republican.

On February 4, 1872, Mr. Frazier married Miss Emma, daughter of Squire John Crook of El Dorado, a pioneer of 1867. They were the parents of three children: Ray E., Nathan F. Jr., and Edna, the wife of Hon. J. B. Adams, who survive him. The wife died.

The tributes of respect and in many cases of affection called forth by the death of Mr. Frazier have seldom been equaled in the State in the passing away of a citizen. His own standard of life was high and it was seen in the development of what grew to be, under his direction, one of the most successful banking institutions in Kansas. In a large measure his life work was finished; it had met to a great extent the fullness of his ambition. But infinitely more precious and of personal consequence to him was the fact that he died rich in the possession of a well earned popularity, in the esteem which comes from honorable living, and in the affection that slowly develops only from unselfish works. In his business life he was the embodiment of honor, as he was in his social and domestic life, the perfection of love and gentleness.

**James B. Dodwell** of El Dorado, is a pioneer business man of Butler county. The career of Mr. Dodwell is considerably out of the ordinary and of unusual interest. He was born in New York City in 1845, and was left an orphan when a baby, and reared by the Children's Aid Society until about ten years of age, when he was bound out to a woman named Carolina Hawley. His new home was anything but pleasant, and his lot was that of the orphan boy who received no kindness, few advantages, and his recreation was mostly work. He almost welcomed the Civil war which broke out about the time he was sixteen years of age. It gave him new hopes and aspirations to have some place to go, when he ran away from his unhappy home.

Enlisting in the army was considered quite an ordeal for most men and boys at that time but young Dodwell hailed with delight an opportunity to escape from his unpleasant and irksome home, and serve duly organized and appreciative military authority. He accordingly ran away from home and enlisted in the Fifty-sixth regiment Illinois infantry. He was too young to go in the ranks as a regular soldier, and became drummer boy in the regimental band. He participated in a number of important engagements, notably among which was the battle of Shiloh, and he was with his regiment in numerous skirmishes. Later he joined the First regiment Illinois light artillery, Captain Bonton, in charge.

After having served his country faithfully and well for nearly four years, he was honorably discharged from the army at the close of the war. In 1865 he went to Kalamazoo, Mich., where he served as an apprenticeship for three and one-half years at the harness maker's trade. Mr. Dodwell worked as a journeyman in Kalamazoo and became foreman of one of the leading harness shops of that city in a short time. In 1871, he resigned his position there and came to Butler county, Kansas. Although he was a first-class harness maker, there was not much demand for that class of work here on the plains in the early days. The country was sparsely settled and even then most of the settlers had oxen instead of horses, and the equipment of an ox team created no demand for a harness maker. No one but a blacksmith and a carpenter need apply in equipping an ox team. Therefore Mr. Dodwell was unable to find employment at his trade and proceeded to work at whatever else he could find to do. One of his first jobs in this county was cutting cord wood at 50 cents per cord. He then drove stage for a time on the line between Florence and El Dorado. He found this to be a very unpleasant job on account of the cold and frequency of blizzards in the early days. He recalls rescuing J. T. Nye, from freezing to death in a blizzard, whom he found in a dazed condition from the extreme cold, and took him to the stage station and gave him shelter. Mr. Nye afterwards became probate judge of this county.

Mr. Dodwell's first work at his trade in El Dorado was in the em-



ploy of Bob Roberts. Later he became a partner of Mr. Roberts, and eventually bought Mr. Roberts's interest in the business. Later Mr. Dodwell bought two lots and built his present place of business, where he has since been successfully engaged in the harness business. Mr. Dodwell is one of the old time business men of El Dorado, and for over forty-five years has been an important factor in the commercial life of El Dorado, and Butler county. Mr. Dodwell is well known to William Allen White, and is said to be Watts McCurdy in "A Certain Rich Man," of which Mr. White is the author.

Mr. Dodwell was married in 1875 at Plainesville, Michigan, to Miss Rebecca Jane Decon, and to this union three children have been born, as follows: Louis, Carthage, Mo.; Leona, Carthage, Mo.; and Lee, Carthage, Mo. All of Mr. Dodwell's children have received a good education and are high school graduates, and are prosperous. Mr. Dodwell is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and belongs to the Presbyterian church.

**B. F. Allebach**, the efficient city clerk of El Dorado is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in 1848, and is a son of Aaron and Philena (Janes) Allebach, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in 1822, and the mother in 1824. They were the parents of the following children, who are now living: John R., DeGraff, Ohio; William L., Maplewood, Ohio; and B. F., the subject of this sketch. The Allebach family removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio where the father followed farming.

B. F. Allebach was reared on his father's farm in Ohio, and educated in the public schools of Logan county, Ohio. When he was about sixteen years of age, the great Civil war was in progress, and January 1, 1864, he enlisted as a private and was mustered into United States service at Columbus, Ohio, February 29, 1864, as a member of Company K, Fifty-seventh regiment, Ohio infantry. Capt. John A. Smith commanded his company, and Col. Americus V. Rice commanded the regiment. Mr. Allebach immediately went to the front with his regiment, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and participated in the engagements at Atlanta and the campaign in the Carolinas.

He was never wounded, but he experienced what the soldiers of the North feared much more than the enemy's bullets—the famine and filth of a Confederate prison hell. Mr. Allebach was captured, during a charge on the enemy's works at Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864, and confined in the Confederate military prison, at Andersonville, Ga., for two months, when he was paroled. He returned to his regiment, and at the close of the war, took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., after which his regiment was sent to Lonisville, Ky., and from there, started to Little Rock on June 25, 1865, and arriving there August 6, after a long, hot, dusty march. They then returned to Camp Chase, Ohio, where the regiment was mustered out of service, August 14, 1865,

and Mr. Allebach received his honorable discharge. As a soldier he rendered faithful and meritorious service.

At the close of the war, he returned to his home in Logan county, and in 1871, was united in marriage to Miss M. J. Epler, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Peter Epler, a farmer of that State. To Mr. and Mrs. Allebach have been born three children, as follows: Mrs. Marian Studebaker, El Dorado, Kans.; E. R., Douglass, Kans., and O. C., El Dorado, Kans.

Mr. Allebach came to Kansas in 1886 and settled in El Dorado, where he has since made his home. He followed the profession of teaching for a number of years, and then became assistant postmaster at El Dorado, a position which he held for seven years. He has held the office of justice of the peace, and has been city clerk since 1907. Mr. Allebach is a capable and painstaking public official, and his courteous and obliging manner has won for him many friends, among the vast number of acquaintances with whom he has come in contact during his career as a public official. He has always supported the policies and principles of the Republican party, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**B. F. Rickey**, a prosperous farmer of Little Walnut township, is a Civil war veteran and pioneer of Butler county. He is a native of Ohio, and a son of Jacob and Dorcas (Morbery) Rickey, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. They were married in Ohio in 1830, and two children of this marriage are now living: Bernard, who resides in Ohio, and B. F., the subject of this sketch.

B. F. Rickey was engaged in the peaceful pursuits of 'the average youth of his time when the great Civil war broke forth on the country with all its vengeance, and he responded to President Lincoln's call for troops, enlisting in Company I, Twenty-fifth regiment, Ohio infantry, and served sixteen months and seven days. He participated in the second battle of Bull Run and some minor engagements and skirmishes.

Mr. Rickey came to Kansas in 1867, and located in Little Walnut township, Butler county. Here he preempted a quarter section of land, which he sold in 1879, and bought the place where he now resides. He owns 240 acres of land which is considered one of the best farms in Little Walnut township, where he has successfully carried on general farming and stock raising all these years. Mr. Rickey came to Butler county at a very early date in its settlement, and is one of the real pioneers who laid the foundation for the future greatness of Butler county. When he came here, life was filled with hardships, incident to pioneer life on the plains. Frequent drouths, crop failures and devastation of crops by grasshoppers, and other pests of the plains, confronted the early settler, but he had a brave heart and willing hands, and overcame these difficulties, and finally conquered the plains and converted a portion of the great American desert into fertile fields of productivity. The first few years after Mr. Rickey located in Butler county, the set-

tlers did most of their trading at Topeka or Emporia, which required from two to four days to make the trip, but with the rapid development of the country, important towns sprang up within closer proximity, and the question of supplies and market began to be solved.

Mr. Rickey was united in marriage, in 1864, to Miss A. E. Palmer, a daughter of Francis Palmer. They have only one child, Ernest M. Rickey, who is associated with his father in conducting the home place. He married Miss Minnie Gaskell, and one child, Franklin E., has been born to this union. Mr. Rickey is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county, and belongs to that type of agriculturists who have built up the great West.

**Charles R. Noe** was born of humble parentage in the hill country of Grant county, Kentucky, March 25, 1843. One of his regular assignments, at the age of eight years, was going to mill, six miles up and



CHARLES R. NOE

down hills, mounted on "Old Benter," a badly sway-backed critter of ripe age, carrying a two-bushel bag of corn. At the age of twelve, young Noe was a chauffeur, driving a horseless vehicle delivering yellow poplar logs to a saw mill. The motor (three yokes of oxen) went all the time on low gear, and the driver was never arrested for speeding.

With his parents and seven other children, Charles R. Noe migrated to southern Illinois in 1856. He entered high school to fit himself for college at Charleston, Ill., but left school at the age of eighteen to answer President Lincoln's first call for volunteers

in April, 1861. He was promoted to sergeant-major of his regiment for gallantry in the assault on the works at Vicksburg, May 22, 1863, and was mustered out as a second lieutenant, August 16, 1865. He came home broken in health and taught school in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1867 and 1868.

Mr. Noe came to Kansas in February, 1869, and to south Butler

county in April, where he secured a claim and made a farm where, ten years later, the townsite of Leon was surveyed. He raised a crop of corn on the Squire Steward place, one mile south of El Dorado, in 1869. He taught school in district No. 9, on the Whitewater, in the winter of 1869-1870. Mr. Noe was united in marriage to Miss Lana Fisher at El Dorado, Kans., March 24, 1870. He was the first trustee and assessor of Little Walnut township.

When the survey was made for the railroad across his place, Mr. Noe secured the promise of the depot from the president of the construction company, B. F. Hobart, in June, 1879. In November of that year the townsite was surveyed and the subject of this sketch named the Leon "Indicator," secured subscribers and wrote copy for the first issue, before there was a house on the townsite. The first train on the Frisco arrived in April, 1880. Mr. Noe was mayor of the town and commander of Leon Post No. 125, Department of Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic, in 1883. He was Regent of the Kansas State Agricultural College in 1895-1898 and treasurer of that institution in 1896-1897.

Mr. Noe united with the Church of Christ at the age of twelve years and is now a trustee and elder of the home congregation.

**M. C. Kelley**, of Logan township, is a Butler county pioneer who has been identified with this county for forty-four years, and saw much of the development of this county from an unbroken and sparsely settled section to a populous and prosperous community. He recalls, with much interest, many of the early day experiences that were of the character to be found only in a new and primitively organized country. M. C. Kelley was born in Georgia in 1850, and is a son of E. M. and Elizabeth (Reynolds) Kelley, the former a native of Georgia, and the latter of Tennessee.

The Kelley family came to Butler county, June 1, 1872, and located on Government land five miles southeast of where Leon now stands. The parents spent their lives on this place, their first summer being spent in a tent under a tree on Hickory creek. Their remains are buried in a private burial ground on the old homestead.

M. C. Kelley was married, in 1881, to Miss Harriet B. Hayes, a daughter of Jonathan and Emily (Hankins) Hayes. Jonathan Hayes was a fifty years' resident of Illinois, and settled the town of Peru, Ill. He and his brother were among the first passengers on the Illinois river, and his sister and family were victims of the Black Hawk Indian Creek massacre, and were buried by General Whiteside and Abraham Lincoln. Congress has recently, it is said, erected a monument to those slain at this massacre. Her father was born in Virginia in 1811, and the mother was a Kentuckian, born in 1822. Mrs. Kelley is one of the following, surviving children born to Jonathan and Emily (Hankins) Hayes, the others being as follows: Mrs. Mary Machesney, Wellsford, Kans.; Mrs. Frances Allard, Troutdale, Ore.; C. W. Hayes, Grand Junction, Colo., and D. H. Hayes, Kildare, Okla. The Hayes family

came to Butler county in 1874, and settled in Logan township. Mrs. Kelley is one of the real pioneer women of Butler county, and often during the early days, herded cattle on the plains when she was a girl. Her father was the first one to use wire for fencing in Butler county. This was in 1881.

Mr. Kelley relates many instances of primitive conditions which prevailed in Butler county in the early days. Their nearest doctor was at El Dorado, a distance of twenty miles, and most of the supplies were obtained from Emporia, which was about fifty miles distant. Prairie fires were one of the dreaded calamities of the early settlers on the plains, and the rule against setting fire on the prairie for any purpose whatever was very strict, and during the season of 1873, while Mr. Kelley and Bill Baxter were cropping in partnership, one day while Mr. Kelley was doing some improving about the place, he started a little fire to burn a bunch of prairie grass. Before he knew it, he had a regular old time prairie fire started, and knowing full well the esteem in which the other settlers would hold him when they discovered that he had set the fire, he mounted his pony in such haste that he lost his hat; but he tarried not to find it, and rode straight south, and did not return for a year. He hoped that by that time, that it probably had rained and put the fire out, and that his neighbors had forgotten about it. After returning, he found it an easy matter to compromise, by paying those who had met with any loss, on account of his private prairie fire.

The prices which the early settlers received for their produce in many instances were not sufficient to pay for hauling it to market. Money was scarce, and there was practically no demand for what the settlers had to sell. Mr. Kelley relates an instance of hauling a load of hay to El Dorado in 1882 with an ox team, in company with John Holt, and after trying to find a buyer for their hay for some time and being unsuccessful, they finally offered to sell it for enough with which to buy their suppers, but were unable to dispose of it even at that price. However, they even did better than that; they succeeded in getting their supper upon a promise to pay for it later, but there is no record that they ever paid. Mr. Kelley attended the election at which the township of Logan was organized in 1873. It was held at old Tommy Walker's place, and the first trustee of the township was Sam Le-Moines. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley are well known in southeastern Butler county, and are among the substantial and highly respected people of that section.

**G. A. Kenoyer**, of Leon, Kans., is one of the representative farmers and breeders of Butler county. Mr. Kenoyer was born in Indiana in 1852, and is a son of Elijah and Sarah Kenoyer. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: G. A., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Mason, Ulysses, Kans.; Mrs. Citney Ballinger, Hutchison, Kans.; John F., San Francisco, Cal.; W. H., Chehalis, Wash.; Mrs. Ida Blanchard,

Orwell, Ohio; Charles V., Hutchinson, Kans.; Mrs. Joe Hogue, Mobile, Ala.; and E. E., Chehalis, Wash. The Kenoyer family came to Kansas in 1879 and located on a farm near Hutchinson. Here the father died, and the mother died in Washington, in 1913.

G. A. Kenoyer was united in marriage in 1873, to Miss Martha E. Ballinger, and in 1877 came to Kansas and located in Little Walnut township. He taught school and farmed for the first few years. He was one of the men who laid the townsite of Leon, and later became postmaster of Leon, serving in that capacity for six years. He then became assistant cashier of the Leon State Bank, and later its cashier.

Soon after coming to Kansas, Mr. Kenoyer became interested in breeding thoroughbred horses, and still has in his possession direct descendants of the strain of horses with which he began in 1885. He is developing a very fine strain of Wilkes-McGregor and Wilkes-Nutwood race horses. He has combined in these breeds most of the fine blooded race horses known to the race-loving public. Mr. Kenoyer's method of handling his horse business, is to select a colt and develop it to its best. He has never followed racing himself, however, as a profession, but for demonstration purposes. He produces the race horses, and lets the other fellow do the racing.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kenoyer have been born six children, as follows: Mrs. Pearl Roysse, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Grace La Rue, Salina, Kans.; Mrs. Luvena Clifford, Wichita, Kans.; G. G., Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Faith Erwin, Cabool, Mo.; and John J., Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Kenoyer is one of Leon's substantial and highly respected citizens.

**H. S. Dedrick** of Little Walnut township, belongs to a pioneer family of Butler county. He was born in Logan township in 1877, and was educated in the district schools, and the Leon High School, and made Leon his home from 1894 to 1914, when he married Miss Grace Marshall, a daughter of the late H. H. Marshall, of Little Walnut township, and since that time has been engaged in farming and stock raising on the Marshall homestead in Little Walnut township.

He S. Dedrick is a son of J. J. and Mary (Dow) Dedrick, the former a native of New York and the latter of Illinois. J. J. Dedrick was born in 1842, and is a son of N. J. and Margaret (Dormoth) Dedrick. The father was a captain on a packet on the Erie Canal, and his father was a very early settler in the State of New York, and held a land grant from Queen Anne in the early days. The Dedrick family originally came from Germany. J. J. Dedrick was one of a family of four children born to N. J. and Margaret (Dormoth) Dedrick, as follows: Nelson, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Elmira Elmore, South Bend, Ind.; Mrs. Mary Mitchell, South Elgin, Ill.; and J. J. Mary Dow, wife of J. J. Dedrick is a daughter of Stephen Dow, who was a prosperous Illinois farmer, and her mother bore the maiden name of Arnold and was of English descent. To J. J. Dedrick and wife have been born six children, as follows: William C., born in 1873, resides at Leon, Kans.; Nelson A., born in 1875;

Hiram S., born in 1877; Mrs. Linda L. Marshall, born in 1881; Edwin E., born in 1884, and Margaret A., born in 1887, all residing in the vicinity of Leon, Kans.

J. J. Dedrick came to Butler county in 1872 and homesteaded government land, and since that time has been one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Logan township. When he came here and began farming many discouraging features confronted him. Like the other pioneers he was a long distance from market, and that meant poor prices for his farm produce. Wichita was the nearest railroad point for a long time. He remembers having sold hogs, as low as two and a half cents per pound, and often hauled corn to market, which he sold for fifteen cents per bushel. He experienced the many discouraging features of drouth and crop failures in the early days, and when the grasshoppers came in 1874, they ate every vestige of vegetation on his place, except the sugar cane, and the winter that followed that devastation was a hard one, and one to be remembered by the Kansas pioneers. Although Mr. Dedrick says that he always had plenty to eat since he came to Butler county, sometimes in the early days, the variety was not great, but that he never had less than one article of food on the bill of fare, and that cornbread and black molasses were not bad when there was nothing else to be had.

**T. H. Fillmore**, owner and proprietor of "Little Walnut Stock Farm" in Glencoe township, is one of Butler county's leading farmers and stockmen. Mr. Fillmore is a native of New Brunswick, born in 1862. He is a son of John and Eliza (Ogden) Fillmore, natives of New Brunswick. To John and Eliza (Ogden) Fillmore were born the following children: George A., deceased; John, Cushing, Okla.; Mrs. Rebecca Dobson, Coil, Okla.; Greene, Davidson, Okla.; T. H., the subject of this sketch; Clark, lives in Oklahoma; Mrs. Ellen Niles, lives in Oklahoma; and Harve F., Cushing, Okla.

Mr. Fillmore came to Kansas with his parents in 1870, and two years later, settled in Butler county, and has lived on his present place of 720 acres, for the past fifteen years. The place is known as "Little Walnut Stock Farm," and is one of the ideal stock farms, not only of Butler county, but of the State. Mr. Fillmore specializes in Herefords, of which he has a very fine herd; and also keeps a number of cattle of the ordinary marketable type, and his entire herd usually averages about 300 head. He has also been successful as a feeder, and raises quite a large number of calves each year. "Little Walnut Stock Farm" is an attractive and splendidly equipped stock farm in every particular, with a commodious residence, large and well arranged barn, sheds, silo and garage, and all buildings about the place are kept in good repair and well painted. The residence stands on an eminence, overlooking the broad acres of well kept and highly cultivated bottom land, which, in the summer season, presents an ideal scene of pastoral life with its fields of waving grain and green mantle of

alfalfa, furnishes mute testimony of its owner's mastery of the art of agriculture. The place is located on the south branch of the Little Walnut, which winds its labyrinthian way like a silver thread down through the valley, which adds the finishing touch of nature's brush to the landscape. No more beautiful countryside can be found.

Mr. Fillmore was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Blankenbaker, and to this union four children have been born, as follows: Orloff, Addison; Lloyd, and Leona. Mr. Fillmore is progressive and public spirited, and is always ready and willing to lend his aid to any movement or enterprise that has for its object the betterment of the community.

**A. F. Wright**, one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Butler county, comes from an old American family and traces his ancestry back to Revolutionary days, his great grandfather having been a soldier in Washington's army in the struggle for Independence. A. F. Wright was born in Buchanan county, Missouri, in August, 1851, and is a son of Joseph T. and Mary J. (Faubion) Wright. Joseph T. Wright came to Kansas when it was a territory. He was a native of Indiana, born in 1838, and settled in Leavenworth county, Kansas, in 1854. He was an early day freighter across the plains, and after coming to Butler county in 1873, followed farming and stock raising, exclusively. To Joseph T. and Mary J. (Faubion) Wright were born the following children: A. F., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Polly E. Rudlof, Howard, Kans.; F. M., Latham, Kans.; Mrs. Sarah A. Brenton, Latham, Kans.; Mrs. Mary J. Vance, Sedee, Okla.; Mrs. Nancy Haring, Cabool, Mo.; Joseph T., Latham, Kans., and S. S., Latham, Kans.

A. F. Wright came to Butler county in 1873, and since that time, has been engaged in farming and stock raising, and is one of the extensive and successful stock raisers of the county. His farm consists of 1,000 acres of valuable land, located just south of Beaumont. Mr. Wright is one of the pioneer stockmen of Butler county whose efforts have contributed to giving Butler county the just reputation of being the greatest cattle producing county in the State of Kansas, if not in the entire West.

Mr. Wright was married in 1881 to Miss Mary I. Vanzandt, a daughter of James and Margaret B. (Swain) Vanzandt of Indiana. To Mr. and Mrs. Wright have been born the following children: Mrs. Sadie A. Westfall, was born in 1882, and died in 1910; C. D., born in 1883, resides at Beaumont, Kans.; Mrs. Laura E. Hobkirk, born in 1885, resides at Latham, Kans.; W. F., born in 1891, Beaumont, Kans.; Mrs. Ella Fillmore, born in 1891, resides at Beaumont; James E., born in 1893; Esther J., born in 1888, died in 1899; Elmer F., born in 1897, resides at Beaumont, and F. R., born in 1901, and died in 1904.

Mr. Wright came to Butler county in the early days of the development of this section, and experienced all the trials, hardships and un-



certainities of pioneer life in this county. Deer were plentiful when he came here, and herds of buffalo could still be seen now and then, but they disappeared shortly afterward, going still farther west. Prairie chickens and other small game were in abundance, and Mr. Wright remembers having seen one herd of elk after coming to this county. Wandering bands of Indians frequently passed through Butler county, and Mr. Wright has seen as many as 150 in one band. There were many inconveniences in those days, and Mr. Wright recalls many of the early day misfortunes, including prairie fires, drouths, grasshoppers, etc.

He remembers the time when markets were a long distance away, prices low and money scarce. He has driven cattle as far as Leavenworth to market, a distance of about 200 miles. He has hauled to El Dorado, a distance of over twenty-five miles, hogs which he sold for less than a cent and a half per pound. Their nearest doctor in the early days was thirty miles away, but Mr. Wright always had faith in the future possibilities of Butler county, and has lived to see his expectations realized, and while, by his thrift and industry, he has been accumulating a competence for himself, he has been a dominant factor in the upbuilding and development of his adopted county, of which he is justly proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright have ten grandchildren, and their children live near enough that they often have family reunions, at which they have enjoyable times.

**F. M. Payne**, one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Glencoe township, is a native of Ohio, and was born in Licking county in 1843. His parents were Irvin and Ruth (Hall) Payne, natives of Ohio. The following children of the Payne family are living; H. C. Payne, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Esther E. Ulum, Kesswick, Iowa; and F. M., whose name introduces this sketch.

F. M. Payne is one of the veterans of the Civil war who, in the stirring days of the early sixties, responded to President Lincoln's call for defenders of the flag. On August 11, 1862, he enlisted in the Twenty-second regiment, Iowa infantry, and for two and a half years carried his musket in the Southland in defense of the Union. He participated in the battles of Champion Hills, Port Gibson, the siege of Vicksburg, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek and a number of lesser engagements and skirmishes. He was captured at Cedar Creek and was held prisoner four and one-half months at Salisbury, N. C.

In 1872, Mr. Payne came to Butler county, and bought out a claim of 160 acres in Glencoe township, and engaged in farming and stock raising. He has added to his acreage and now owns 448 acres, where he conducts an extensive and profitable farming and stock raising business. Mr. Payne was married in 1877 to Miss Rosa Dobson, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Goodwin) Dobson, and to this union have been born six children, as follows: Mrs. Alta Ledgerwood, Leon, Kans.; L.

D., Leon; Mrs. Vina McMullen, Bular, Kans.; Mrs. Iva G. Cannon, Leon, Kans.; E. E., Leon, and W. H., Fort Smith, Ark.

When Mr. Payne located in Butler county there were no railroads in the county, his nearest railroad point being Emporia and he frequently drove there for supplies, and El Dorado was his nearest town, which was about twenty miles distant. Mr. Payne is a Republican, but has never aspired to hold political office. He is one of the progressive farmers and stockmen of Butler county and keeps himself well posted on current events. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

**Henry H. Marshall**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer whose influence in the early days contributed in no small measure to the early development and upbuilding of Butler county. He was a capable business man, and with his keen foresight, saw the possibilities of the future greatness of Butler county when others could see nothing but the horizon, which seemed to surround this great unpeopled western waste.

Henry H. Marshall was a native of Indiana, born in Fountain county in 1846, of North Carolinian parentage. He was reared to manhood in his native State and in 1869 was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Elwell. Two years later they came to Butler county, Kansas, and in 1871, Mr. Marshall bought a quarter section of land of Peter Johnson. This farm is two miles northeast of Leon and was a part of the Osage Indian trust lands, ceded to the United States in 1868. It was preempted in 1868, being on the northern boundary of the Osage Indian lands. Dr. Munson preempted this place in 1868 and later in the same year traded it to Peter Johnson for an ox team and wagon and Mr. Marshall bought it from Johnson in 1871 and paid \$2,250. This land is now worth \$150 per acre. It is all bottom land. Mr. Marshall also preempted a quarter section adjoining it in Little Walnut township. There was a small house on the Johnson place 12x18 feet, which Johnson built in 1868, and which is still standing. The lumber for this house was sawed from native timber at William Martin's mill at El Dorado.

Although Mr. Marshall had some capital when he came here, he began at the bottom, and experienced all the various phases of pioneer life. He had been a school teacher in Indiana, but after coming here devoted himself exclusively to farming and stock raising. He also bought and sold cattle extensively, and was a large feeder, and did a large volume of business. When he came here there was lots of game, and he has stood in the door of his home and shot deer, and while he was not a professional hunter, by any means, he kept his table well supplied with meat in the early days, without any unusual effort. In 1874, when this section of the State received outside aid on account of the devastation of the grasshoppers, Mr. Marshall was appointed one of the distributors of the supplies, and conducted this work in a manner that gave entire satisfaction to all concerned.

Mr. Marshall was a man who was very kind to animals and would

never permit one to be abused. In the early days he used a great many mules in his farming operations and after these animals became old and decrepit they were pensioned by being cared for just as well as when they were in the prime of their usefulness. They never were required to do any work after reaching the decrepit age. In 1914 one of these mules died at the age of thirty-four years. And in 1915 two others died which had attained the age of thirty-five years. And in 1916 one died that had attained the age of thirty-six years.

Mr. Marshall continued to buy land, after coming to this county until he became the owner of over 2,000 of valuable land. He died in November, 1911, at the age of sixty-six years, and thus came to a close the career of one of Butler county's most successful pioneer citizens. His wife passed away in April, 1912. The following children of this honored pioneer couple survive: Morton W., William S., John A., Etta M., and Grace E. Morton W. Marshall, the eldest of the family, was born July, 1870, and is a successful lumber dealer at Leon, Kans., having been engaged in that business there for twenty-six years. He was married to Miss Eleanor, daughter of W. J. Martin, a prominent pioneer of Butler county. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall: Vivian, Jean L. and Shirley.

William S. Marshall was born in November, 1872, and is engaged in the banking business at Leon. He was married in December, 1903, to Miss Lyndia Dedrick, a daughter of J. J. Dedrick, and three children have been born to this union: Aneta, Arlone, and Ruth.

John A. Marshall was born in November, 1874, and is a prominent implement dealer of Leon, Kans. Etta M. married Bert R. Smith, a banker of Reece, Kans.; and Grace E., married H. S. Dedrick and lives on the old homestead in Little Walnut township. All the members of the Marshall family are prominent and well to do citizens, and belong to that substantial type of citizens who make for the betterment of the political, industrial, and social world.

**F. B. Tabing**, a prominent farmer and successful stockman of Logan township, is a native son of Butler county, whose parents were early settlers in this county. He is a son of Charles and Permelia (Moore) Tabing, who settled in Butler county at an early date, locating in Logan township, the father being a pioneer cattleman of that section. He prospered in his operations and amassed a comfortable fortune, and at the time of his death owned over a thousand acres of land which was well stocked, 620 acres of which is now owned by F. B. Tabing, the subject of this sketch, and 420 acres is owned by Frank Tabing, the only two surviving children born to Charles and Permelia (Moore) Tabing. The father was a prominent and influential citizen of Butler county and died in 1897, and the wife and mother departed this life one year later. The father was a native of Germany. He was a Civil war veteran and served in Company I, Twenty-second regiment and Company H, Forty-second regiment, Illinois infantry.

F. B. Tabing spent his boyhood days on his father's farm and was educated in the public schools of Leon. He has spent his life in farming and the cattle business, and is one of the best posted and most successful cattle men in Butler county. He studies his business and has made a success of it and his spacious farm of 620 acres is well improved and superbly adapted to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Tabing was united in marriage in 1904 with Miss Gertrude Overstreet, and six children have been born to this union, as follows: Jerrine, born in 1906; Ethelyn, born in 1907; B. C. N., born in 1909; T. H. M., born in 1910; Lulu J., born in 1912; Oletha, born in 1914; and Fred B., Jr., born June 13, 1916.

Mr. Tabing recalls many amusing as well as serious incidents of his early boyhood life on the plains of Butler county. It was a habit with his father to carry his money (bills) under the sweat band of his hat, and one day while he had quite a considerable amount of money thus concealed in a light straw hat, a playful Kansas zephyr blew his hat off, and so far away that neither the hat nor the money has been heard of according to last reports.

**George H. Eckel**, a well known farmer and stockman of Glencoe township, is a native of Butler county. He was born February 18, 1871, and is a son of Charles and Julia (Zimpleman) Eckel, natives of Michigan. The parents of George H. Eckel came to Butler county in 1870, locating near where the town of Pontiac now is, where the father homesteaded a quarter section. He engaged in farming and stock raising in that vicinity, which has been his life's occupation. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having served in that great conflict with the Michigan troops. He now resides on a farm in Butler county. Of the children born to Charles and Julia (Zimpleman) Eckel, the following the now living: Frank, Douglass, Kans.; George H., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Nettie Louthen, Ponca City, Okla.; William, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Belle McIntyre, Wichita, Kans., and Mrs. Eva Dornboss, Douglass, Kans.

George H. Eckel was reared on his father's farm in Butler county near Pontiac and received his education in the public schools. He began farming and stock raising on his own account in early life, and now owns a splendid farm of 440 acres located on the south branch of the Little Walnut in Glencoe township. This place compares favorably with the best stock farms of Butler county and although a young man Mr. Eckel ranks as one of the leading farmers and stockmen of the community. He is an active and aggressive business man whose worth as a citizen of high standing is recognized by those who know him best.

Mr. Eckel was married February 27, 1901, to Miss Nelle V. Hobbs, a native of Mediaoplis, Iowa. She is a daughter of William and Nancy (Gilmore) Hobbs, who settled in Butler county, in 1807, locating near Pontiac, and later removed to El Dorado, where they now reside. Mrs. Eckel is one of the following surviving children, born to William and

Nancy (Gilmore) Hobbs; Mrs. George H. Eckel, the subject of this sketch; William C., El Dorado, Kans.; Hal R., Los Angeles, Cal.; and Louis B., Wichita, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. George H. Eckel have been born the following children: Merele, born in August, 1903; Lloyd, born in September, 1906; Leslie, born in October, 1908; and Lois, born in July, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Eckel are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and well known and prominent in the community.

**John Gordon Axtell**, Civil war veteran, plainsman and pioneer of Beaumont, Kans., traces his Anglo-Saxon ancestry back nearly three centuries. Mr. Axtell was born in Ohio, December 3, 1845, and is a son of Alexander A. and Jane (Gordon) Axtell. Alexander A. Axtell located in Ohio about 1832. He was a son of Daniel Axtell who was born in 1780 and whose ancestors of the Axtell family are as follows, in the direct line of descent, with dates of births: Daniel, 1748; Thomas, 1727; Daniel, 1673; Henry, 1641; Thomas, 1619, and who was the founder of the Axtell family in America, coming to this country in 1642. He was a native of Berkhamstead, England. Jane Gordon Axtell, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1811, and married Alexander A. Axtell, about 1843. Two children were born to this union, John Gordon Axtell, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Martha J. Adams, now residing at Grove City, Pa.

John Gordon Axtell received a common school education, and spent his boyhood days similar to that of other boys of his time, until the Civil war broke out. On August 13, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Forty-fifth regiment, Pennsylvania infantry, and was mustered into service at Erie, Pa. His regiment became a part of General Maher's Irish brigade and later was attached to Miles' brigade. Mr. Axtell participated in the battle of Fredericksburg, and was in the Mine Run campaign, and during the Wilderness campaign served on a detail that was assigned to carry the wounded off the field of battle, during the engagement. He was in the Wilderness campaign, at the disastrous blowing up of the Mine, the siege of Petersburg, Deep Bottom and Ream's Station. At the latter engagement, he was taken prisoner and sent to Libby prison and later transferred to Belle Island prison and from there to Salisbury, N. C. He succeeded in escaping from the latter place, and found his way back to his regiment, which he joined at Burksville Junction and remained in the service until his discharge June 18, 1865. He participated in the grand review at Washington, D. C., after the close of the war. His regiment saw much hard service and few companies of the entire Northern army, if any, show a greater loss than Company H, of which Mr. Axtell was a member. Every man that went out with that company was either killed, wounded or taken prisoner and only five of the entire company returned home.

In 1868, Mr. Axtell came to Kansas and drove a six mule team to Ft. Hayes where he joined General Forsythe's scouts, taking the place of a man who had recently been killed. While with Forsythe's scouts they

operated with the Fifth U. S. Cavalry in the Republican river campaign, and were sent with General Sheridan to supply and to locate the Nineteenth Kansas which was on an expedition against the Indians in the West under command of Governor Crawford. After reaching Camp Supply, where General Sheridan was, Mr. Axtell was detailed as one of Sheridan's body guards, serving in that capacity while he remained in the service in the West.

The following March he went to Coffeyville, Kans., where he remained until 1870, when he returned to Pennsylvania and was married and in 1872, came to Kansas again, locating in McPherson county. In 1884 he went to Elk county where he remained until 1892. In 1907 Mr. Axtell removed to Beaumont, Butler county, but still owns his farm of 320 acres which is located in Greenwood county, about five miles from Beaumont where he is extensively engaged in stock raising.

In 1870, Mr. Axtell was married to Miss Jennie A. Blair, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Daniel and Martha (McMichael) Blair, natives of Pennsylvania, where the father was a farmer. Mrs. Axtell has two brothers living, Mathew, Youngstown, Ohio, and John A., Cochran, Pa. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Axtell, as follows: Mrs. Minnie Ryerson, Burden, Kans.; Mrs. Ollie R. Norman, Beaumont, Tex.; Mrs. Martha J. Olds, Beaumont, Kans.; Guy P., married Effie Westfall, Altamont, Kans.; Mrs. Lena F. Westfall, Piedmont, Kans.; Mrs. Coral A. Ragsdale, Leech, Okla.; Mrs. Clara L. Ludwig, Fall River, Kans.; Glenn J., married Rebecca Hutton, Beaumont, Kans., and Free L., Salt Lake City, Utah. There are forty-five grandchildren in the Axtell family.

Mr. Axtell served as postmaster of Beaumont for two years during President Taft's administration. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he and Mrs. Axtell belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Few men of this age and time, are to be found who have passed through the experiences which have fallen to the lot of Mr. Axtell, and any man might well be proud of his record as a soldier and a citizen. He is a remarkable man for his age and his vigorous body and active mind would be a credit to a much younger man. He possesses a remarkable memory, and can relate to the most minute detail, incidences that occurred over fifty years ago.

**W. A. McCullough**, a pioneer in the threshing industry of Butler county, and a leading farmer and stockman of Logan township, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Newton county, that State, in 1858, and is a son of G. L. and Matilda (Garded) McCullough, both natives of Indiana, the father having been born in Union county in 1833. The McCullough family came to Kansas in the fall of 1877, and located in Butler county. The father now resides at Leon. G. L. and Matilda (Garded) McCullough are the parents of the following children: W. A., the subject of this sketch; S. J. Derby, Kans.; H. L., lives in Oregon; Mrs. Nannie Heddey, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Effie Allen, La-

tham, Kans.; Mrs. Alta Hubbard, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Flora Larrick, Leon, Kans.; Bert, El Dorado, Kans.; James E., the eldest, was killed in a mine in Arkansas; and Laura A. McCullough, died about twenty years ago.

W. A. McCullough came to Butler county in 1877. He operated the first steam thresher in this county. It was not of the tractor type of engine, but had to be hauled from one farm to the other by oxen. In connection with his threshing operation, he carried on farming and stock raising, and, for a time, handled sheep, extensively, and perhaps understands the sheep business better than any other man in Butler county, but, he says, with all of his experience with sheep, the most interesting feature was to make both ends meet, when wool was five cents a pound.

Mr. McCullough was married, in 1879, to Miss Lucy J. Grove, a daughter of W. and Sarah (Hodson) Grove of Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. McCullough have been born the following children: Mrs. Elma May Arnold, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Elsie Arnold, Latham, Kans.; Mrs. Cora Bertchsinger, Wichita, Kans.; S. E. McCullough, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Sarah L. Woodard, Bristol, Colo., and Lucy McCullough, Leon, Kans. In referring to the days when prices were low and money scarce, Mr. McCullough said, "I have hauled stove wood to Wichita, and also wheat, and sold the latter at thirty-five cents per bushel."

Mr. McCullough is a Democrat and has taken an active part in local politics. He has served as trustee of Logan township for five years, and has also been township clerk.

**Richard E. Oldbury**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Little Walnut township, was born at Evansville, Ind., in 1849. In 1858, he came to Kansas with his father's family. He spent his boyhood on the plains of Kansas, hunting buffalo with the Indians or rounding up cattle. He is now engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is one of the substantial farmers of Little Walnut township, and is also extensively interested in stock raising. He has an excellent farm of 130 acres, which is well adapted to both grain and stock farming. Mr. Oldbury is of the thrifty and progressive type of farmer, and his well kept place bears mute testimony to its owner's prosperity.

Mr. Oldbury was united in marriage to Sarah Stout of Cottonwood Falls, Kans., in 1877. To this union were born two children: David E., and Dora N. In 1882 Mrs. Oldbury passed to the great beyond, leaving Mr. Oldbury to fight life's battles alone, with two small children to "mother" and care for. In 1886, Mr. Oldbury moved to Clark county, Kansas. One year later, he was married to Miss Adaline Palmer, a successful school teacher, and daughter of Henry Palmer, stone mason, from Ohio.

In 1893, Mr. Oldbury made the "run" into Oklahoma, and was the first rider into Pond creek. He staked a claim and, with his family, made a valuable farm of the once cactus strewn, prairie-dog-town

plains. While in Oklahoma, Mr. and Mrs. Oldbury were blessed with two daughters, Wanda A., and Mary F. In order that their daughters might have proper education and yet not be separated from them, Mr. and Mrs. Oldbury returned to Kansas in 1902, settling on a valuable farm, thirty miles east of Wichita in Butler county. Here they made their home until the spring of 1916, when Mr. Oldbury turned the farm over to younger hands and retired from active business.

Mr. Oldbury has seen many ups and downs of the early life on the plains, and was here when many of the settlers asked for and received help from the aid societies, but Mr. Oldbury never asked for, nor received aid, never refused to pay an honest debt, and never was sued. In 1888, when the settlers were all hard up, and many of them asking for assistance from the outside world, he not only made a living, but made money hunting jack rabbits and selling their scalps for bounty. He is one of the substantial men of Butler county, and is made of the kind of material that has reclaimed the wilderness and conquered the plains and deserts of this country.

**Mrs. Mattie M. Blankenbaker**, of Glencoe township, is one of the brave pioneer women who came to Butler county in the early days when conveniences and comforts were few, and hardships and privations many. Mrs. Blankenbaker was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1845, a daughter of James and Nancy (Hyndman) Dunlap, both natives of Ireland. Mrs. Blankenbaker has one surviving sister, Mrs. Charles Mitchell, of LyCygne, Kans. Shortly after her marriage to Mr. Blankenbaker they came to Kansas and remained for a short time in Linn county, and in 1870 came to Butler county and preempted a quarter section of land in Glencoe township, which has since been the family home. Mr. Blankenbaker was a Civil war veteran, having served as a member of Company I, Sixty-seventh regiment, Indiana infantry. He was a brave soldier and was honorably discharged after having made an unusually good military record. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, Murfreesboro and a number of other important and hard-fought battles of the Civil war. At Murfreesboro he had the misfortune of being taken prisoner, and after the war he was always fond of relating how he shouted with joy at the sight of the stars and stripes, after he had been released from the Confederate prison and exchanged. He served three years in the army.

S. A. Blankenbaker and Mattie M. Dunlap were married in 1866, and the following children were born to this union: Mrs. Jennie Fillmore, Leon, Kans.; Clinton, Latham; Mrs. Bernice Butts, Keighley, Kans.; Clyde, Keighley, Kans., and Mrs. Beryl Evans, Kansas City, Kans. Clyde is living on the home farm with his mother and in addition to operating the home farm, rents 160 acres in that vicinity, and is one of the prosperous farmers and stockmen of Glencoe township. Mr. Blankenbaker died, suddenly, in the Odd Fellows Hall at Beaumont, Kans., January 7, 1911, being stricken with heart failure. He was a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and for years had



been active and influential in that Order and was much in demand at special meetings and extraordinary gatherings of members of that lodge. He also took an active interest in local, political affairs and was prominent in the community. He had held several local offices of trust and responsibility, having been trustee of Glencoe township.

Mrs. Blankenbaker remembers many incidents connected with the pioneer life of this county, of which the present generation know little. When she came here there were deer and antelope and large quantities of small game. One day while she and her husband were hauling a load of corn they discovered a herd of antelope, and Mr. Blankenbaker became so excited that, at first, he started after the antelope with his team and the load of corn, but upon second thought, he unhitched one of the horses, mounted it and went in pursuit of the antelope, leaving his wife perched on the load of corn. Like the other early pioneers Mrs. Blankenbaker was exposed to the many dangers that beset the early settlers, the chief ones of which were prairie fires and cyclones. She has always had a dread of cyclones, and she is very thankful that in their playful pranks over the plains they have thus far missed her.

**W. M. Butts**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Glencoe township, is a native of Kentucky, born in 1873, and is a son of J. S. and Cora (Sweeney) Butts, both also natives of the "Blue Grass State." They were the parents of the following children, who are now living: Mrs. Alice Squier, Mrs. Leola Rumsey and Mrs. Anna Hopp, all of Beaumont, Kans., and W. M., whose name introduces this sketch. The Butts family came to Kansas in 1879, when W. M. was six years of age, and the father preempted a quarter section of Government land in Glencoe township, where W. M. now resides.

W. M. Butts was reared on the home farm in Butler county, educated in the public schools, and has made farming and stock raising the principal occupation of his life. His father was quite an extensive sheep man in the earlier days. Shortly after settling in Butler county, he went to Buler, Mo., and bought 200 head of sheep, which he drove through to Butler county, and on their way here with the sheep, Mr. Butts was forced to guard them every night to prevent them from being stolen by the ambitious denizens by the wayside. Thus, it will be seen that, in the early days of Kansas, sheep had other enemies besides wolves, dogs, etc., for there was sometimes a human element in the disappearance of a sheep. When W. M. Butts was a boy, his father gave him a sheep, and by the time he had reached the age of twenty-one, his sheep had multiplied, until he had 300 head. This sounds almost incredible, but if you'll take your pencil and figure it out, you will find that it is only another case of the blacksmith and the horseshoe nail. Each fall the Butts family loaded their household goods in a wagon and drove their sheep to the bottom lands of the Arkansas river where they would spend the winter, returning to Glencoe township in the spring.

W. M. Butts was married in 1900 to Miss Bernice Blankenbaker, a daughter of S. A. and Mattie (Dunlap) Blankenbaker. The Blankenbaker family were early settlers in Butler county, and when they came here, they settled on a quarter section of land, about a mile west of where they now live in Glencoe township. To Mr. and Mrs. Butts have been born the following children: Glencoe; Melvin; James; Ila, and Leatha, all living at home with their parents.

Although a young man, Mr. Butts is quite an old pioneer of Butler county, from the fact that he has spent most of his life here. He was only a small boy when he came here, however, he has a distinct recollection of many of the hardships and inconveniences, experienced by the early day settlers. He has seen many devastating prairie fires sweep over the plains, which was one of the great menaces to life and property during the early days in Butler county. Through his thrift and industry, Mr. Butts has succeeded to a very satisfactory degree, and is now one of the substantial men of Butler county.

**William Hutton**, of Beaumont, Kans., is one of the pioneer railroad men of Kansas, and has been identified with the Frisco Railroad, as division foreman for thirty-five years. Mr. Hutton was born in Illinois in 1859, and is a son of James and Charlotte (Snyder) Hutton. His father now resides in Los Angeles, Cal. They were natives of Ohio and came to Kansas in 1877, and settled on the plains where the father built a tar paper house in which he lived for two years. The varying Kansas winds toyed with this frail structure in a way that did not add to its appearance, and at the end of two years it was a dilapidated and ragged looking domicile, but had served its purpose and had sheltered the little family of pioneers from the wintry blasts of Kansas zephyrs, and the scorching heat and hot winds for two years. The father took up a claim and did his little farming with a yoke of oxen, and made many long drives with this primitive motor power of the plains, for with oxen the drives were always long regardless of the distance.

William Hutton came to Kansas in 1874, as he says, to see the grasshoppers, which shows the kind of courage that he had in the early days. Soon after coming, he settled on eighty acres, where he built a sort of a combination sod house and dugout. He dug about eighteen inches below the surface, which he covered with poles, and made a roof of sod. This was his home for the first few years in Kansas. Shortly afterward he entered the employ of the Frisco Railroad Company, and as above stated, has been division foreman of that railroad for the last thirty-five years.

Mr. Hutton was married in 1887, to Mrs. Susan S. McPaul, of Neodesha, Kans., and eight children have been born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Martha R. Axtell, Beaumont, Kans.; William A., Beaumont; Wilbur J., Beaumont; Mrs. Mabel Wason, Fredonia, Kans.; James, Beaumont; Gladys, Beaumont; Adaline, Beaumont, and Marion T., Beaumont.

Mr. Hutton is the oldest male resident of Beaumont, and is hale and hearty, and takes a keen interest in all that concerns the welfare of Butler county. He is justly proud of his large family of intelligent children and is constantly planning for their future welfare.

**L. D. Himebaugh** is one of the pioneer settlers of Butler county.



L. D. HIMEBAUGH



PIONEER FARM VIEW



PROGRESSIVE FARM VIEW

The illustrations show pioneer and progress on the southwest quarter of section 33, Richland township, pre-empted and still owned by L. D. Himebaugh. The cabin was built in the early spring of 1870. In 1872 the southwest quarter was pre-empted by Miss Watson, which later was merged into one farm at a meeting held in Waukesha, Wis., in August, 1882. In September, 1884, the cabin was vacated for the more modern home and has been occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Himebaugh for twenty-four years. In March, 1908, they moved to Wichita, their son, R. W. Himebaugh and family, succeeding them on the farm.

L. D. Himebaugh is a native of Ohio, coming to Kansas soon after reaching his majority, in the early spring of 1868, via a river transport, being nearly three weeks en route from Marietta, Ohio, to Kansas

City, from which point he paid ten cents per mile over the Kansas Pacific railroad to Topeka, his destination.

Being then about financially stranded, he spent the summer in the employ of a practical farmer near Topeka at twenty dollars per month. He taught a four-month term of school in district No. 9 that winter, and spent the following summer in the employ of the county superintendent, P. Kirby, near Burlingane, Osage county.

At the close of his winter term of school in district No. 3, he came direct to Butler county, locating on and pre-empting the land which he still owns, unincumbered to date (forty-six years) other than an oil lease recently given, in compliance of which a test well is now being sunk (March, 1916) by the Merchants Oil and Gas Company, of Wichita, with hopes and favorable prospects of a gusher when the oil sand is struck.

**C. F. Shriver**, owner of the well known "Craigton Farm" of Glencoe township, belongs to a Butler county pioneer family. Mr. Shriver was born in Indiana in 1869, and is a son of Joshua and Nannie E. (McGuffin) Shriver, the former a native of Indiana and the mother of Virginia. The Shriver family located on a farm in Towanda township, Butler county in 1871, and were among the very early settlers of that section where the parents still reside. The following children were born to Joshua and Nannie E. (McGuffin) Shriver: C. F., the subject of this sketch; John W., Pine Bluff, Ark.; Ed A., Towanda, Kans.; Mrs. Ella Otten, McPherson, Kans.; Mrs. Bertha C. Stewart, Benton, Kans.; James L., El Dorado, Kans.; F. G., Towanda, Kans., and Mrs. Nellie M. Bishop, Amarilla, Tex.

Mr. Shriver was reared in Towanda township, and educated in the public schools, and has practically spent his life in this county. Farming and stock raising has been his chief occupation. He has a splendid farm of 300 acres in Glencoe township which is known and legally registered as "Craigton Farm." He makes a specialty of raising white faced cattle, usually keeping between eighty and one hundred, and is one of the successful stockmen of Butler county.

Mr. Shriver was united in marriage in 1903 with Miss Vida MacRitchie. She is a daughter of John and Adelia (Leaming) MacRitchie. They were pioneers of Kansas, coming to this State in the early seventies. There were three children in the MacRitchie family, as follows: Mrs. Christian Hardie, Wichita, Kans.; William D., Winnemucca, Nev.; and Vida, the wife of C. F. Shriver, the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. Shriver have been born five children, as follows: John M.; Charles F. Jr.; William D.; James L.; and Margaret H. Mrs. Shriver's father was a native of Scotland, and was born in Edinburgh. The MacRitchie family is connected with the Reid-Robertsons family of Stralock, Scotland, and related by marriage to many of the prominent families of Scotland and England. Mr. Shriver is one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Butler county, and owned the first automobile in

Glencoe township. He is well posted and takes a keen interest in current events, and is a representative Butler county citizen.

**J. W. Vinson**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Logan township, is a native of Illinois, born November 21, 1864. He is a son of James C. and Mary Ellen (Vickery) Vinson, both of whom came from England with their respective parents at an early age. J. W. Vinson is one of a family of six children, as follows: Mrs. Ella Evers, Anrora, Ill.; Mrs. Emma Devereaux, Yorkville, Ill.; Walden, Yorkville, Ill.; Mrs. Elydia Heap, Minooka, Ill.; Richard, Yorkville, Ill.; and J. W., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Vinson was reared in Illinois and received a good common school education. He was married, in 1889, to Miss Anna M. Bundy, a native of Illinois and of English descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Vinson have been born seven children, as follows: Mrs. Florence Dunn, Latham, Kans.; Clarence, Latham, Kans.; Clara Kelly, Atlanta, Kans.; John, Latham, Kans.; J. C., Latham; Frank, Latham; and Alva, Latham.

In 1908, Mr. Vinson came to Butler county with his family, and bought 240 acres of land in Logan township, where he has since been successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. His place is known as "Vinson Ranch," and is one of the best farms in Butler county. It is well watered by natural springs and an ideal stock farm. Mr. Vinson has his place well stocked with cattle and hogs, and is quite an extensive alfalfa raiser. His land is easily worth \$100 per acre, and in conformity with the general trend of land values, is gradually increasing in value. Mr. Vinson is an enthusiastic Butler county booster, and belongs to that progressive class of agriculturists who are meeting with well earned success by the application of combined practical and scientific farming methods, and who are neither faddists nor fogies. He is a strong advocate of the value of sweet clover, as a suitable crop for semi-arid districts, and is of the opinion that in the near future it will be a boon to that section of Kansas, which receives an uncertain and meager amount of moisture, although he contends, that the soil in this section of Kansas will hold moisture much longer than the average soil. He is a strong advocate of good roads, and is one of the progressive and substantial citizens of Butler county.

**W. S. Martick**, a leading farmer and stockman of Logan township, is a native of Illinois, born in 1868. He is a son of Joseph and Nancy (O'Dell) Martick, who were married about 1865. Joseph Martick was born in Pennsylvania, November 20, 1837. When the Civil war broke out, he was a resident of Missouri and cast his lot with the lost cause, enlisting March 9, 1862, in Company A, Sixth regiment, Missouri infantry. He distinguished himself as a soldier and was awarded a gold medal for gallantry on the field of battle which his son, W. S., cherishes in sacred memory of his father, keeping it in a safety deposit box in the Butler county State Bank.

W. S. Martick came to Butler county in 1897 with eleven dollars in his pocket, which was the extent of his earthly possessions. He was a veterinary surgeon, but there was nothing to be done in his line of professional work. He therefore found employment, feeding a hay press at 50 cents per day, and boarded himself. His first few years in Kansas were difficult ones. It was hard to get a start, under the then existing conditions. His first venture in the cattle business was disastrous, and he lost heavily on account of the black leg; money was scarce and he has sold hay as low as ten cents per ton in order to get a small amount of necessary money. However, after passing through all these days of adversity, the time came when he prospered, and he now has 240 acres of land in Logan township, which is considered one of the best farms in Butler county for stock raising and general purposes. The place is unusually well watered with natural springs, located in a beautiful section of the country, and is known as "Martick Ranch."

Mr. Martick was married in 1895 to Miss Alzina Wood, a daughter of Zachariah and Harriet (Jones) Wood, the former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. Mrs. Martick is one of a family of six children. Mr. and Mrs. Martick have two children, Archie and William Sherman.

Mr. Martick was one of the pioneer kafir corn men of southeastern Butler county. At an early day in the introduction of this crop, he bought a pound of seed from John A. Selzer, which he planted and the following years peddled it out to his neighbors at ten cents per bushel. Like all other advanced movements, Mr. Martick met with strong opposition in the introduction of kafir corn, which has since proved to be a great boon to the semi-arid agricultural districts of the West. About the first year that he introduced kafir corn one of his neighbors had fed some of it to his hogs, and afterwards, a few of his hogs died from some cause or another, but the neighbor insisted that the kafir corn was the cause of losing his hogs. He reasoned that his hogs did not die until after he had fed them kafir corn, therefore, kafir corn killed them. This was a difficult line of logic to overcome, but time and experience have overcome it. The hogs are still dead, but kafir corn is going on, and is one of the leading products of Butler county, that is making it the great county which it is.

Mr. Martick was the first man to advocate the building of concrete bridges in his section of the county, and today they are practically the only bridges being constructed there. He is progressive and public spirited and one of Butler county's best citizens.

J. J. Getz, a prominent farmer and cattleman of Logan township and Butler county pioneer, was born in Pennsylvania in 1847, and comes from Revolutionary ancestry. He is a son of Thomas and Barbara (Wise) Getz, both natives of Pennsylvania. The great grandfather of Thomas Getz served in Washington's army in the Revolutionary war. The parents of Barbara Wise were Germans, and came to this country from Wurtemberg, settling in Pennsylvania. The Getz

family consisted of nine children, as follows: Mrs. Ellen Shaffer, Jersey Shore, Pa.; Mrs. H. E. Myers, New York; Mrs. Regina Dice, Lock Haven, Pa.; Mrs. Mary Myers, Lock Haven, Pa.; T. J., Hope, Kans.; M. E., Jersey Shore, Pa.; George W., Lock Haven, Pa.; George B. M., Lock Haven, Pa.; and J. J., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Getz has been twice married, first in 1876, to Miss Anna Probst, and his second wife, to whom he was married in 1909, bore the maiden name of Virginia F. Smith, of Boonville, Mo. Mr. Getz came to Kansas in 1878, and preempted a quarter section of land in Logan township. He encountered many features of pioneer life that made a lasting impression on his mind. When he came to Butler county, like many other early settlers, he was not abundantly supplied with this world's goods, and was actually barefooted. When he came, money was scarce, and there was no demand for labor. The average price paid to labor, whenever there was any employment, was less than twenty-five cents per day. Mr. Getz broke the first prairie on his claim with a team, which was composed of the odd combination of a horse, ox and a cow. This statement should furnish the present age material for reflection, when we consider that we have advanced from this primitive mode of motor power and transportation to the point where some people fear that they will be held up to ridicule if they own an automobile, manufactured by a certain peace advocate, costing less than a thousand dollars. After the horse, ox and cow, Mr. Getz's next team was a yoke of Texas steers, which won a reputation as "The Runaway Texans." They would run away every chance they got, and were considered pretty speedy for oxen. Mr. Getz tells of running a race with Fred Frank, who drove a team of Indian ponies, and the oxen won, although they never had any special track training. He was breaking prairie one day with these Texans and another yoke of cattle, with the Texans in the lead, and all of a sudden, the leaders took a notion that they wanted a drink of water, and they headed straight for the creek and with the other yoke of oxen, plow and all, went over a twelve foot embankment into six feet of water. Mr. Getz had many experiences with these cattle, their pranks furnishing him much amusement, and some excitement at times, when there was not much else happening on the frontier. A prairie fire was approaching one day, being fanned along at a lively rate by a high wind, and when Mr. Getz saw the fire approaching, he turned his Texans loose, and they outran the fire, a feat that would require a very good horse.

Mr. Getz not only had to fight prairie fires, but was a victim to other forces that lurked in the elements. While plowing with his Texans one day, he was struck by a cyclone, and after the twister had hurried past, Mr. Getz was left unconscious on the field. He received a very severe, internal injury, causing a hemorrhage of the lungs, but as usual, the Texans escaped, unscathed. Mr. Getz lived in Butler county during the halcyon days of the "Bad Man" of the plains, when

horse stealing and other outlawing was a business, and Mr. Getz had occasion to look into the dangerous end of a shot gun or other weapon of destruction at times. After passing through the pioneer days of hardships, he began to prosper, and has successfully carried on general farming and stock raising to the present time.

Mrs. Getz is a chicken fancier, and one of the successful poultry women of Butler county. She specializes in the blue Andalusian breed of chickens, and has about 700, the income of which, in eggs, averages about \$50 per month. Mrs. Getz is an expert wing shot, and is almost sure death to chicken hawks, having shot over thirty on the wing.

**William Skaer**, one of the successful and well known farmers and stockmen of Spring township, is a native of Illinois. He was born in 1861, and is a son of George Skaer. Willam Skaer came to Butler county in 1876. He drove from Illinois with two younger brothers to this county, and the trip required three weeks. The father bought 320 acres of land in Spring township and engaged in farming and stock raising. A part of the first house which they built on the claim is still standing. Mr. Skaer now owns 680 acres of land, which is one of the valuable farms of Butler county. He was an extensive wheat grower in the early days and when the price of wheat declined some few years ago, he engaged more extensively in the cattle business. In whatever Mr. Skaer has specialized, whether it has been wheat or cattle, his efforts have always been marked by success.

Mr. Skaer was married in 1886 to Miss Genevieve Brooks, a daughter of William C., and Katherine (Donnell) Brooks, natives of Kentucky. Mrs. Skaer is one of a family of the following children: Mrs. Mary Warner, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Ada Black, Winfield, Kans.; Mrs. Kate Hutton, Kansas City, Mo.; George Brooks, Kansas City, Mo.; Paul Brooks, Kansas City, Mo.; and Genevieve, the wife of William Skaer, whose name introduces this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Skaer have four living children, as follows: Stanley W., Augusta, Kans.; George, Ingerson, Okla.; Mrs. Opal Hyde, Augusta, Kans.; and Pauline, Augusta, Kans.

Mrs. Skaer's parents were very early settlers in the territory of Kansas. They came here prior to the Civil war and settled near Lawrence, and resided in that locality at the time of Quantrill's raid. They experienced all the dangers and trials, not only of pioneer life but the border war was raging in all its malicious details, during the early years that the Brooks family lived in the Kaw valley. The family came to Butler county when Mrs. Skaer was a child ten years of age and drove from Lawrence in an old time prairie schooner. Mrs. Skaer was one of the pioneer school teachers of Butler county, and taught for several years prior to her marriage.

Mr. Skaer is familiar with much of the early history of Spring township, and relates many interesting incidents in an entertaining way. He recalls the old time prairie fires that swept over the plains like a seething furnace, and at one time, saw a hundred tons of hay



destroyed by one of these visitations of destruction. The spring, from which Spring township takes its name, is located on Mr. Skaer's farm, and the story goes that Henry Moyle and others held a sort of preliminary meeting at this spring where arrangements were made for the organization of Spring township.

Mr. Skaer's father was a "forty-niner." He went across the plains to California with a party of gold seekers in 1849. The train with which he went, was made up of ox teams and after a few years on the coast, he returned home, bringing with him about \$1,500 worth of gold. Mr. Skaer is one of Butler county's representative citizens, and has a wide acquaintance and many friends.

**H. C. Morgan**, a prosperous farmer and stockman, and pioneer of Spring township, was born in New York in 1848. He is a son of Bradford and Sylvia (Gillette) Morgan, both natives of New York. Bradford Morgan's grandfather was a soldier in the American army during the Revolutionary war, and served throughout the entire period of seven years of that great conflict for independence.

H. C. Morgan has two brothers and one sister living, as follows: Mrs. Cora Smith, Smith Center, Kans.; Isaac, El Dorado, Kans.; and Frank, Smith Center, Kans. The Morgan family migrated to Missouri in 1865, and later the father came to Butler county. H. C. Morgan, the subject of this sketch, came to this county in 1871, and therefore has spent forty-five years of his life here. He settled on a quarter section of land in Spring township, and has since resided in that part of the county. He was favorably impressed with this country from the first. He says he could notice considerable advancement over Missouri, and even at that time there were iron bridges in the county. He raised a good crop the first year, and built a comfortable cabin, and for the first three years here "batched," as did most of the homesteaders in those days. He says, he always had money in the early days, and the way he managed to do that, was that he carried a twenty-five cent piece for a pocket piece, which he refused to spend under any circumstances, which accounts for his always having money. He did his own cooking and daily menu consisted of hot corn bread for breakfast, corn meal cakes for dinner, and cold corn bread for supper.

When Mr. Morgan settled on the plains, there was not a church nor a schoolhouse in sight, and the nearest railroad was fifty miles away. However, Mr. Morgan has seen all this changed, and the marvelous advancement and improvements that have been made in Butler county since he came here would seem almost an impossible accomplishment within the scope of a lifetime. He has been extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising since locating here, and is one of the progressive agriculturists of this section of the State. He owns 720 acres which are well improved with good buildings, and well watered. The place is known as the "Cedar Circle Farm," and is one of Butler county's best farms. The following is approximately the product of one

year, from Mr. Morgan's farm; \$3,000 worth of hogs, twelve to fifteen thousand bushels of kafir corn, and \$500 worth of cattle.

Mr. Morgan was married in 1875 to Miss Eudora Starrett, a native of North Carolina, and a daughter of Alexander and Nancy (Gray) Starrett, natives of North Carolina, the former of Scotch descent and the latter of Irish ancestry. Alexander Starrett and wife were the parents of the following children: Preston, Standberry, Mo.; Thomas G., Robertson, Kans.; Samuel W., New Raymes, Colo.; Mrs. Luella L. Reed, Lawrence, Neb.; and Eudora, the wife of H. C. Morgan, the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have been born the following children: Cora, Godhra, India; Emily, Kingman, Kans.; Mrs. Annie Colter, Leon, Kans.; Ada, Leon, Kans.; Elbert, Leon, Kans.; Grace Eckle, Leon, Kans.; George, Florida; Alex, Leon, Kans.; Edna Calbeck, Blackwell, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan are real pioneers of Butler county, and they can relate many interesting reminiscences of the early days, and with all the hardships they also cherish many pleasant memories and fond recollections. All of the Morgan children received the advantages of very good education. Five of them are graduates of the Southwestern College of Winfield, and all of the others are high school graduates. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan and all the children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**I. G. Morgan** of Spring township has witnessed the great growth and development that has taken place in Butler county, within the last forty-five years, and he has been a potent factor in building this county up to the point where it ranks as one of the foremost political subdivisions of the State of Kansas. Mr. Morgan was born in New York in 1851, and is a son of Bradford and Sylvia (Gillett) Morgan. The Morgans are an old American family of Welsh descent, and a direct ancestor of I. G. Morgan fought in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war.

I. G. Morgan has two brothers and one sister living, as follows: Henry Morgan, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Cora Smith, Smith Center, Kans.; and Frank Morgan, Smith Center, Kans. The Morgan family came west and settled in Missouri in 1865. In 1871, I. G. Morgan came to Butler county, Kansas, and he and his brother each took a claim in Spring township, and he still lives on the place which he homesteaded at that time. He has followed general farming and stock raising, and has met with well merited success, having been ably assisted by his faithful wife.

However, when Mr. Morgan first located on his claim, he was unmarried, and he and his brother "batched" for a number of years. They were young and strong, and really enjoyed the wild free life of the plains. They had plenty of buffalo meat at times, and Mr. Morgan had the reputation of making the best corn bread in the neighborhood. He relates one of his cooking experiences, which he kept a secret for a

number of years. He had a rooster all dressed and ready for the pot one day, and sat down to rest a little while before getting dinner, while his brother went to a neighbor's place on an errand. While resting, Mr. Morgan fell asleep, and the hogs came into the house and ate the rooster. Upon awakening, Mr. Morgan saw the situation and hastened to kill a hen which he had ready for dinner by the time his brother returned, and it was six years after this incident that he told his brother. He felt a little ashamed of himself for sleeping at the switch, and letting a dead rooster escape, at a time when roosters were so scarce.

After proving up on his claim, Mr. Morgan returned to New York State, where he was married to Miss Margaret Smith, a native of England, who came to America with her parents, when she was eleven years of age. She is a daughter of Richard Smith, a contractor and builder. Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan came to the home, which he had prepared in Butler county. They are the parents of the following children, all of whom are living: Mrs. Ethel Wheeler, Saskatchewan, Canada; Mrs. Louise Kenyon, Augusta, Kans.; Frank, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Susie Jones, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Jenet Gamble, Leon, Kans.; Joseph, Brawley, Cal.; Isaac, Jr., Brawley, Cal.; Mrs. Margaret Steviec, Des Moines, Iowa; Sadia B., El Dorado, Kans.; Lois, El Dorado, Kans.; and Willard, El Dorado, Kans.

Mr. Morgan does not boast of a finished education, but the fact is that he is one of the best informed men in Butler county. He is a great reader, and keeps himself well posted on the world's current events. He is a progressive and thrifty citizen, who has made a success in life; he has a broad acquaintance in this section of Kansas, and is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county.

**B. C. Gamble**, of El Dorado township, is a representative Butler county farmer and stockman. Mr. Gamble is a native of Indiana. He was born in 1843, and is a son of Dr. John and Jane (Thompson) Gamble, natives of Ohio. The father was a practicing physician and spent his life in Indiana. B. C. Gamble is the only surviving member of his family.

Mr. Gamble was united in marriage in 1872 in Indiana to Miss Susan J. Harshman, a native of that State. She is a daughter of Moses and Elizabeth (Everding) Harshman, natives of Indiana. The Harshman family consisted of the following children: Taylor, Frankfort, Ind.; Mrs. Sarah Thompson, El Dorado township; Mrs. Amanda Knapp, Frankfort, Ind.; J. N., El Dorado township; Mrs. Alice Thomas, South Pasadena, Cal.; Mrs. Bell Tillotson, El Dorado, Kans.; Ida Harshman, El Dorado, Kans.; and Weaver, Blackwell, Okla.

Moses Harshman, the father of Mrs. Gamble, was a miller in early life in Indiana and came to Kansas in 1880. He settled on a half section of land in the southern part of El Dorado township, and followed farming the remainder of his life. He was an industrious and thrifty citizen and became well to do, and one of the prominent men of the community.

B. C. Gamble and his wife came to Butler county at the time her parents came, in 1880, and Mr. Gamble bought 120 acres of land in the southern part of El Dorado township where he has since been successfully engaged in general farming. His place is well improved and his land is under a high state of cultivation. He is also quite an extensive stock raiser and has met with success, generally, in his undertakings. To Mr. and Mrs. Gamble have been born the following children: Mrs. Mary Maxwell, Potwin, Kans.; Mrs. Nora B. Shoots, Bellefontaine, Ohio; B. F., El Dorado, Kans.; Charles H., Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Louisa McDowell, Haverhill, Kans., and Mrs. Kate Bales, Augusta, Kans. All of the children received good education in the public schools, and the girls all attended the El Dorado High School, and all were teachers prior to their marriage.

Mr. Gamble has always taken a praiseworthy interest in local affairs and in the well being of the community. He has held a number of offices of trust and responsibility, and is now serving as trustee of El Dorado township. The family are members of the United Brethren church. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble are of that genial type of people who make many friends, and they are highly respected among their neighbors and acquaintances. Their children are all grown up and prosperous, and are splendid representatives of that high type of citizenship which makes for the betterment of the State and Nation.

**W. B. Thompson**, a representative Butler county farmer, of El Dorado township, is a native of Clinton county, Indiana. He was born November 3, 1848, and is a son of Samuel and Sarah (Byers) Thompson, natives of Ohio. W. B. Thompson's mother died when he was a child, and his father died a few years later. The boy was reared in Howard county, Indiana, and in early life, followed the occupation of stationary engineer, but in recent years has followed farming. He came to Kansas in 1883, and since that time, has been a resident of Butler county.

Mr. Thompson was married, August 12, 1880, to Miss Sarah Harshman, a daughter of Moses and Elizabeth (Everding) Harshman, the former a native of Green county, Ohio, and the latter of Frederick, Md. The Harshman family are of German descent. Peter Harshman, Moses Harshman's great-grandfather, was born in Germany in 1742, and came to the United States in 1769, and fought in the Revolutionary war under General Washington. His son, Peter Harshman, served in the War of 1812. Moses Harshman and his wife were the parents of the following surviving children: J. N. Harshman, Mrs. B. C. Gamble, Mrs. C. E. Tillotson, and Mrs. W. B. Thompson, the subject of this sketch. In early life they resided in northern Indiana and Michigan, where the father followed his trade, which was that of a miller. The Harshman family came to Kansas in 1880, and the father bought the place where Mr. Thompson now lives, in El Dorado township. Here he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising until his death, Nov-

ember 11, 1902. His wife survived him a few years, and died March 24, 1907.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have been born the following children: Earl, born in Clinton county, Indiana, married Anna Leedon of Butler county, and they have four children: Eldon, Elwood, Effie and Esther; Everett Virgil, born in Butler county, married Clara Arnold, a Butler county girl, and they have three children: Vadna Ruth, Virgil Pauldine and Albert Wayne. The Harshman and Thompson families are among the representative pioneers of Butler county, and are well known and highly respected.

**U. G. Kennedy**, a well known farmer and stockman of El Dorado township, and a member of a Butler county pioneer family, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Jefferson county in 1864, and is a son of H. H. and Mary M. (Shirley) Kennedy, both natives of Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, and descendants of old Pennsylvania stock. The father was a school teacher in early life in his native State, and in 1872, the Kennedy family came to Kansas. They spent the first winter at Manhattan and the following spring came to Butler county, and settled in the southern part of El Dorado township, where the father preempted 160 acres of land, and followed general farming and stock raising until his death, which occurred in February, 1911, and the mother died in November of the same year, the former being seventy-four years of age and the latter seventy-three. They were the parents of the following children: Alice, married T. M. Hopkins, Cushing, Okla.; U. G., the subject of this sketch; E. M., Harlem, Mont.; M. W., Oklahoma City, Okla.; T. H., Harlem, Mont.; Belle, married George Leedham, Spring township, Butler county; Blanche, married William Glaze, Grandee, N. M., and Erma, deceased.

U. G. Kennedy was about eight years of age when the family located in Butler county, and many of the events of pioneer days made a lasting impression on his mind. Butler county was then comparatively a wild and unbroken country, and considered well on the border, or in the vanguard of the westward march of civilization. Mr. Kennedy remembers seeing deer and antelope in the vicinity of his home, and recalls many other native conditions of the West. He received his education in the pioneer public schools and remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age, when he engaged in farming and stock raising for himself and now has a fertile and productive farm of 240 acres and he also operates the home place of 290 acres, in which he has an interest, where he successfully carries on general farming and stock raising and is one of Butler county's most progressive and prosperous farmers and stockmen.

Mr. Kennedy was united in marriage in 1889 to Miss Alda H. Berner, a daughter of J. G. Berner, a Butler county pioneer, now residing on his old homestead in El Dorado township. To Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy have been born five children, as follows: Vesta, married Ben Smith,

Leon, Kans.; Frank G.; Katie; Alice, and Icy, all at home except the married daughter. Mr. Kennedy is independent in politics and takes a keen interest in public affairs, and is one of Butler county's representative citizens.

His place is located about half way between the recent oil development of the El Dorado and Augusta fields and promises a profitable future. This land is leased and, no doubt, operations will begin in the near future.

**W. H. Irwin**, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Prospect township, Butler county, is a native of Missouri. He was born in Jackson county, and is a son of W. H. and Catherine (Yost) Irwin. The father was a native of Missouri, also, and was born in Cape Girardeau county, March 15, 1833. W. H. Irwin and Catherine Yost were the parents of six children, as follows: Charles W., Boyce City, Idaho; Mrs. Ida E. Freeman, El Dorado, Kans.; George H., Augusta, Kans.; W. H., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Sophia M. Carter, El Dorado, and Mrs. Ella Kate Milburn.

The Irwin family came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1883, and the father bought 230 acres of land in Lincoln township, nine miles north of El Dorado, and was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising until the time of his death, November 15, 1903. The wife and mother departed this life shortly after the family came to Kansas. She died in 1884.

W. H. Irwin, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared on his father's farm in Butler county, and received a good common school education. In 1903, he purchased his present place of 480 acres in Prospect township where he has since been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising, and is one of Butler county's prosperous and most progressive citizens.

Mr. Irwin was united in marriage in 1899 to Miss Minnie Fox, a native of Morgan county, Indiana, born December 18, 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have been born two children: Hazel and William H. Hazel is a student in the public school, and William H. bears the distinction of having won the silver loving cup at the kafir corn carnival, held at El Dorado in 1912, as the prize baby. The cup, which is of beautiful design, bears the following description, "To William Harold Irwin, Prettiest Baby, Kafir Corn Carnival Parade, October 18, 1912."

Mr. Irwin's generous spirit and courteous manner have won for him many friends. He has spent most of his life in Butler county, and those who know him best are his staunchest friends. He is public spirited and enterprising, and is always willing and ready to co-operate with any movement for the good of the general public.

**Peter Johnson**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer, and one of the successful farmers and stockmen whose thrift, industry and foresight have built up a reputation for Butler county as one of the foremost stock counties of the State. Peter Johnson was a native of Denmark,

born at Easter Keeping, Denmark, October 30, 1841. He was left an orphan at a very early age, his mother dying when he was about two months old, and his father died a few years later. He grew to manhood in his native land and for a time served in the Danish army, and in 1867 immigrated to America and first went to Oshkosh, Wis., where he worked for a man by the name of Powell for two years. In 1869 he came to Kansas and for a time worked in the mines at Burlingame, Osage county, and while there he met William Jones and John and Henry Peters, and they decided to equip themselves with a traveling outfit and look for suitable government land for future homes.

Mr. Johnson bought a yoke of oxen and the other three men bought the wagon, and with this pioneer outfit they drove through to Butler county in 1870, and preempted claims in Prospect and Rosalia townships in this county. Their original intention was to get adjoining claims, but this they were unable to do. The first claim upon which Mr. Johnson settled was taken away from him by early day "claim jumpers." In those days it was not considered good judgment to argue over a little matter, like 160 acres of land, with a bad man who held a good gun. The next place on which Mr. Johnson located, proved to have no other claimants, and he settled where the present Johnson homestead is located in Prospect township. He walked to Humboldt, the nearest land office, which was about 100 miles distant, to file on his claim and he carried his shoes most of the way in order to save them, for shoes were scarce in Kansas in those days. He engaged in farming with his ox team, and kept the team for a number of years.

During the first few years in Butler county, Eureka was the nearest point at which he could get any milling done, and he frequently hauled a load of grain to the mill there with his ox team, the trip requiring two days. He worked hard and prospered in spite of bad years and other discouraging features of early life on the plains. He added to his original holding and at the time of his death owned 800 acres which now constitutes the family homestead. He was a successful stock raiser as well as general farmer, and was quite extensively interested in raising horses of a very high class. He was a great lover of the Morgan type, and bred and raised a great many of them, and he kept his cattle up to a high standard, the Red Durham being his favorite. Mr. Johnson was what might be called a successful and high class farmer and stockman, whom many others might do well to emulate. He took a keen interest in local affairs and served as treasurer of Prospect township, and was also school treasurer. Politically he was a Republican. He died January 16, 1903.

On March 7, 1882 Peter Johnson and Miss Lidia Heape were united in marriage. She was a native of Tamaroa, Perry county, Illinois, and a daughter of Levy and Lizzie (Knight) Heape, both natives of Somersetshire, England. The Heape family removed from Perry to Jackson county, Illinois, and in 1879 removed to Montgomery county, Kansas,

where they remained about six months when the parents went to Nowata, Indian Territory, where the father died in 1897, and where the mother now resides. Mrs. Johnson did not go to Indian Territory with her parents, but remained in Montgomery county, Kansas, about three years, when she came to Butler county, and was later married to Mr. Johnson, as above stated. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born five children, as follows: Anna, married M. P. Hanson; H. P., lives in Boone county, Illinois; N. W., lives on a part of the homestead farm in Prospect township; Olaf R., Walter, Okla.; and O. B., on the home place with his mother.

Since her husband's death in 1903, Mrs. Johnson has conducted the farm, which consists of 800 acres of productive land, under a high state of cultivation. She specializes in white faced cattle, and usually has on hand about a hundred head. Mrs. Johnson has also met with unusual success in raising corn, having raised as high as eighty-five bushels per acre, and she, also, ranks among the successful alfalfa growers of Butler county. Mrs. Johnson is a Democrat and takes a keen interest in State and National politics, as well as in local affairs. She is a member of the school board, and belongs to the Enterprise Grange. Her husband was also active in the Grange Lodge, during his life time. Mrs. Johnson is recognized as one of the capable business women of, not only Butler county, but Kansas.

**T. W. Holderman**, one of the progressive young farmers and stockmen of Butler county, is a native of Illinois. He was born September 29, 1880, and is a son of A. J. and Josephine Virginia (Bashaw) Holderman, the former a native of Illinois, and the latter of Virginia.

A. J. Holderman, the father, came to Butler county with his family in 1885, after spending about six months in Emporia. He bought 780 acres of land in Chelsea township, and since that time, has added 480 acres to his original purchase, and is one of the extensive stockmen and farmers of Chelsea township. A. J. Holderman was one of the leading horse breeders of this county for a number of years, and brought some of the best horses here to be found. However, he gradually drifted into the cattle and the hog industry, which he found to be very profitable. In addition to his extensive farming and stock operations, A. J. Holderman is an important factor in other industrial and financial ventures in this county. He is president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank at El Dorado, and is president of the Butler County Telephone Company. He resides on High street, El Dorado, in one of the best residences in that city.

A. J. Holderman married Miss Joseph Virginia Bashaw, March 1, 1877, and the following children were born to this union: Mrs. Mary Ramsey, El Dorado, Kans.; T. W., the subject of this sketch; Grace, El Dorado; A. J. Jr., El Dorado, and Curtis, El Dorado.

T. W. Holderman was reared and educated in Butler county, and has been more or less identified with farming and the stock business



all his life. He now owns and operates a 160-acre farm in Chelsea township, where he carries on farming, and is quite extensively engaged in stock raising, and is one of the successful farmers in that section of the county.

Mr. Holderman was married July 1, 1907, to Miss Mattie Lee Hunt, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Belle (Wood) Hunt. The father was a native of Ohio, and came to Kansas with his parents when he was a mere boy. The mother, Sarah Belle Wood, was born in Kentucky. Mrs. Holderman was one of the following children born to her parents: George, El Dorado; Mattie L., wife of T. W. Holderman, the subject of this sketch; Effie, El Dorado; Leonard, El Dorado, and Hazel, El Dorado, Kans. Mrs. Holderman's parents reside in Chelsea. To Mr. and Mrs. Holderman has been born one child, Alfred Donald.

**N. B. Coggshall**, a Butler county pioneer and successful farmer and stockman of Chelsea township, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Wayne county in March, 1841, and is a son of Caleb and Mary A. Coggshall. The Coggshalls came from an ancient and honorable English family, and trace their lineage back to 1144. The direct lineal ancestors of N. B. Coggshall, beginning in 1144, are as follows: Matilda, the oldest daughter of the Grand Duke of Normandy, Sir William, First Abbott Coggshall Abbey, Lord Odo, Third Abbott. Lord Peter, brother of Stephen, Chancellor of Lincoln. Lord Thomas, Monk of Valle Dell, eleventh year of the reign of King Henry, third son of King John. Lord Ralph, Monk seventh, Lord Ralph De Coggshall, a Monk of the Cistercian Order, sixth Abbot of Coggshall. Sir Thomas, Knight. Sir Ralph, baron. Sir John, baron. Earl Henry, baron. Sir William, baron. Sir Thomas, baron. Lord John. Sir Thomas, baron. Lord John of Herndon. Sir Rodger, Knight. Lord John. The American line of descent is as follows: John. Joshua, aid-de-camp to Lafayette. John, commander in navy, Revolution. Caleb, major, War of 1812. John, captain in Mexican war. Tristram, farmer. Caleb, merchant. Nathan, lieutenant in Civil war, 1861-1865. Mary J., daughter of Caleb, and Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Mary Jane.

Mr. Coggshall was reared and educated in Indiana and when the Civil war broke out he enlisted at Richmond, Ind., August 8, 1862, in Company E, Sixty-ninth regiment, Indiana infantry, and served with his company throughout the Civil war, and was mustered out of service July 5, 1865, and received his honorable discharge. Mr. Coggshall came to Kansas and located in Butler county in 1868, and was one of the pioneers of Chelsea township. He practiced law for six years in El Dorado and for twenty-five years held the office of justice of the peace, although farming has been his chief occupation, and he has been an extensive cattle raiser. He and his wife now own 560 acres of land and rank among the prosperous farmers of Chelsea township.

Mr. Coggshall was married at Cottonwood Falls, Kans., December 22, 1867, to Miss Mary Ann Ellis, daughter of Archibald and Ann Ellis,

natives of County Mayo, Ireland. The Ellis family were among the very earliest settlers in Butler county. They came here in 1869. For a more complete history of the Ellis family, see sketch of John Ellis in this volume.

Mrs. Coggshall is one of the pioneer women of Butler county. She came here when a young girl, and at first she felt as though she never would be able to adjust herself to the conditions of the frontier, as she found them in those primitive days, but she became accustomed to life in the great West and became very much attached to this section of the country after being here a very short time. She was one of the pioneer school teachers of Butler county, and in the early days taught school in a log school house in Chelsea township. Mrs. Coggshall has been actively identified with the life and development of Butler county almost since its beginning, and she and Mr. Coggshall rank among the leading pioneers and first families of Butler county. They are an estimable couple and number their friends in legion.

For years Mr. Coggshall was a supporter of the policies and principles of the Republican party, but in recent times he has been inclined to be liberal and independent in his political views.

**D. R. Rodwell**, a well known farmer and stockman of Chelsea township, is a Butler county pioneer. Mr. Rodwell is a native of California and was born December 15, 1858. He is a son of John and Sarah (Hodgen) Rodwell, both natives of England. The parents were married in their native land, and shortly afterward immigrated to America, settling in Wisconsin. The father was a miner and followed that occupation in Wisconsin for a while and later went West. He followed mining on the Pacific coast and in the mountains, and was engaged in that line of work in Montana at the time of his death.

Shortly after the father's death the mother and D. R. Rodwell, the subject of this sketch, came to Kansas and located at Great Bend. In 1884 they came to Butler county and settled on 160 acres of land in Chelsea township, which is the present family home. They were poor and went into debt for their home and the first few years in Butler county were years of hardship and privation. At that time all their supplies had to be hauled from Emporia.

After having passed through the first few lean and uncertain years, they began to prosper and soon became numbered among the most substantial people of Butler county. The mother, Sarah Rodwell, is one of the Butler county pioneer women who endured many hardships in the early days of Butler county's history. During the hard times of the early years and uncertain crops, she at times found it difficult to maintain the home, but by good management and industry and with the cooperation of her son, they succeeded in getting a start in life. Soon after coming to Butler county, D. R. Rodwell engaged in stock raising, which has been his chief occupation to the present time, and he is one of the successful men in that line in Butler county.

Mr. Rodwell was married in 1896 to Miss Julia Graham, a daughter of Henry Graham. Mrs. Rodwell died, leaving one child, Daisy, who married Oscar Garabrandt, a native of Ohio, who now resides in Butler county. Mr. Rodwell is one of Butler county's substantial citizens and one of the Chelsea township pioneers who has contributed his part to making Butler county what it is today.

**F. W. Seward**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Glencoe township, Butler county, is a native of Illinois. He was born March 14, 1872, and is a son of W. C. and Rebecca (Williamson) Seward, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Illinois. W. C. Seward, the father, was a stockman, and came to Kansas in the spring of 1876, when F. W., who name introduces this sketch, was four years old. The family located in Ford county, Kansas, and in 1884 came to Butler county. The Swards are an old and prominent American family. W. C. Seward was a cousin of Secretary of State Seward, of President Lincoln's cabinet, and Elizabeth Windsor, mother of W. C. Seward, traced her ancestry back to the Mayflower.

F. W. Seward is one of a family of eight children born to W. C. and Rebecca (Williamson) Seward, the others being as follows: Samuel, Laird, Colo.; Mrs. Elizabeth Fowler, Bridger, Mont.; F. M., Mountain Home, Ark.; Mrs. Anna Marks, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Amy Bush, Tonkwa,



F. W. SEWARD'S RESIDENCE

Okla.; Mrs. Florida Churchill, Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Ida Strickland, Lawrence, Kans., and P. W. Ft. Worth, Texas.

F. W. Seward came to Butler county with his parents in 1884, and remained on the home farm until he reached his majority. In 1898 he removed to Glencoe township and has since that time been successfully engaged in stock raising. He has 600 acres of land and is one of the extensive stockmen in that section of the country.

Mr. Seward was married in 1900 to Miss Cora Parker, a daughter of Joel Parker, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Seward have been born the following children: Ruby, born in 1901, a student in the Leon High School; Ivan, born in 1902; Wayne, born in 1905, and Freeman, born in 1907, attending the public schools.

Mr. Seward is a Republican and frequently takes an active part in local political issues. He has served as assessor of Glencoe township, having been appointed for one year and elected to serve four years. The Seward home in Glencoe township is a splendid residence of beautiful and commanding appearance, and has all modern improvements such as are found in the modern residences of the city. Mr. Seward has installed a gasoline engine, which is used for pumping the water supply to a tank, which affords sufficient water pressure to maintain a perfect water system for the residence, and the same power is used for the laundry, cream separator, etc. He has combined the freedom of the country with the conveniences of city life.

Mr. Seward is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Butler county and a public spirited and substantial citizen of the community.

**W. J. Case**, one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Chelsea township, is a native of Michigan. Mr. Case was born at Coldwater in 1864, and came to Butler county from Michigan in 1879. Shortly after coming to Kansas, W. J. Case entered the employ of Judge Harrison and worked for him on the Doornbos place. Young Case saved his earnings and began to invest in a small way, his first investment being in a mule colt, which he later traded for a mare and gave \$40 to boot, and later traded the mare for a team, paying the difference. He and a brother, C. H. Case, then rented the Holderman farm in Chelsea township for six years. They carried on general farming and stock raising, and prospered.

Mr. Case was married in 1894 to Miss Allie T. Zuel, of Prospect township, and a member of one of the old pioneer families of Butler county. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Case went to Oklahoma and filed on a quarter section of government land and remained there until 1900, when he sold his claim and returned to Chelsea township. Here he bought 240 acres of land and engaged in farming and stock raising, and in 1908 he bought the Jim Taylor place, which consists of 160 acres. He did not stop buying land at that, but in 1912 he bought 400 acres in Lincoln township, and is one of the large land owners of Butler county. Mr. Case has been uniformly successful in his business,

and is one of the prosperous and progressive men of the county. He is a self-made man, and has earned every dollar that he has. He is a typical representative of that class of men who do things. He came to Butler county when a boy and has seen much of the development of this section, from a great unpeopled plain to one of the important counties of the State, and has done his part in the great work of development. Mr. Case has built up a reputation for honesty and straightforward business methods. He has never permitted any desire to make money to be the dominant factor of his nature. He regards a reputation for integrity of more value than a reputation for money making. And yet he has been fortunate in that he has always kept his word and at the same time prospered.

Mr. Case is a Democrat and has always supported the policies and principles of that party, and takes a keen interest in the welfare of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Case have one daughter living, Gladys, who resides at home. Jessie T. is deceased. The Case family is well known and prominent in the community.

**C. E. Tillotson** is a Butler county county pioneer and belongs to a Kansas pioneer family. He was born in Delaware county, New York, December 29, 1856, and is a son of McDonough and Sarah M. (Carpenter) Tillotson, both natives of New York State and descendants of prominent New York families. C. E. Tillotson has one sister living, Mrs. Lucy Ralston, of Augusta, Kans. Mr. Tillotson came to Kansas with his parents in 1869. They settled in Linn county, where the father bought 280 acres of land. After remaining there about five years they spent about two years in Illinois, when they returned to Kansas. This time they located in Cherokee county, where the father bought 240 acres of land. Three years later he exchanged that property for 800 acres of land in Butler county. Here he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising for a number of years and finally removed to Augusta, where he died.

C. E. Tillotson, the subject of this sketch, began life for himself when twenty-three years of age on a quarter section of land which he had received from his father. He followed general farming and stock raising and has met with success. He sold his first farm and bought 270 acres southwest of El Dorado, and in 1905 he sold that place and bought 240 acres near Potwin. Two years later he sold that farm, when he bought 200 acres in El Dorado township, where he now resides.

In 1876 Mr. Tillotson married Miss Lizzie Ruark, a daughter of John Ruark, of Linn county, Kansas, and five children were born to this union, as follows: D. L., Ponca City, Okla.; David E., Groom, Texas, Coila E. Smith, Gage, Okla.; Sadie, Potwin, Kans., and Marion, El Dorado. Mrs. Tillotson died December 17, 1899, and Mr. Tillotson was married the second time, in 1909, to Isabelle Everding Harshman, a native of Michigan, born in 1860. She is a daughter of Moses and Elizabeth (Everding) Harshman. The father was a substantial farmer

and stockman of Butler county, who came here with his family in 1880. He was born in 1821, and his wife was also born that year. They were married in 1844 and the father died in 1902 and the mother passed away in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Harshman were the parents of the following children: Taylor, Frankfort, Ind.; Mrs. Susan Gamble, El Dorado township; Mrs. Sarah Thompson, El Dorado township; Mrs. Amanda Knapp, Frankfort, Ind.; Jasper H., El Dorado township; Mrs. Alice Thomas, South Pasadena, Cal.; Ida, El Dorado, Kans.; Weaver, Blackwell, Okla.; and Isabelle, now Mrs. Tillotson.

Mr. Tillotson is a member of the Grange, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Tillotson are widely known throughout Butler county and are held in very high esteem by their many friends and acquaintances.

**J. P. Ramsey**, of Chelsea township, came to Butler county with his parents, when a small boy, and has therefore spent most of his life in this county. He was born in Coles county, Illinois, in 1865, and is a son of John Ramsey, a native of Ireland. John Ramsey came to America when he was about eighteen years of age, first locating in New York State. He was engaged in railroad construction work after coming to America and worked on the construction of one of the first railroads that were built in the State of New York. He came to Illinois at a very early day, and located in Douglass county, where he bought 160 acres of land, which he exchanged for 400 acres in Butler county, and in 1876 came to this county with his wife and family of five children, as follows: Henry, Dewey county, Oklahoma; J. P., the subject of this sketch; Bernard, El Dorado; Samuel, Elm Creek, Neb., and Mrs. Maggie Ford, who resides in Colorado. J. P. Ramsey was reared on the home place in Chelsea township, and was educated in the public schools. Farming and stock raising have been his chief occupation, and he began on his own account in a small way when he was still a youth. He first bought some cattle and later, when he had quite a herd, he rented a quarter section of land, which he afterwards bought. He now owns 440 acres of valuable land in Chelsea township, and is one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of that section of the county.

Mr. Ramsey was married in 1898 to Miss Abbie Kenedy, a daughter of Thomas and Mary Kenedy. To Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey have been born five children, as follows: Elva, John, Clara, Ray and Joe.

There are still fresh in Mr. Ramsey's memory many interesting incidents in the pioneer life of Butler county. He recalls a time when most of the supplies were hauled from Emporia. There were a great many deer and antelope here when the Ramseys first came, and Mr. Ramsey remembers a pet deer which his folks had and which frequently wandered away over the plains and in a day or two would return, accompanied by a herd of wild deer, and Mr. Ramsey has killed a great many deer that had been inveigled into the range of his rifle by his deceptive pet.

Mr. Ramsey is a Democrat and for a number of years has been active in the councils of his party in Butler county. He has served as trustee of Chelsea township three years, and has been a member of the school board for twenty years. He is one of the substantial and progressive citizens of Butler county.

**A. F. Peas**, of Chelsea township, ranks among the well known and successful farmers and stock raisers of Butler county. He was born in Boone county, Iowa, in 1861, and is a son of J. A. and Catherine (Johnson) Peas. They were the parents of the following children: A. J., Elk City, Okla.; Harvey, Boone, Iowa; Mrs. Phidelia Pritchard, Boone, Iowa; Henry, Pasadena, Cal.; and A. F., the subject of this sketch.

A. F. Peas came to Kansas in 1885, and settled in Chelsea township, Butler county, where he bought 160 acres of land, and later bought another quarter section. He has been extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising, and has been especially successful in raising Shorthorns. He is also quite an extensive alfalfa grower, and altogether is one of the prosperous and successful farmers of Chelsea township. His farm is well improved and he has an unusually fine farm residence, which he built in 1905, and his place presents a well kept appearance with every indication of a prosperous owner. \*

Mr. Peas was married to Miss Mary Jane Diller, a daughter of John and Dorothy Diller. Mrs. Peas is one of the following children born to her parents: John Diller, deceased; Mrs. Dorothy Hoy, deceased; George Diller, Morrowville, Kans.; Henry Diller, Cassoday, Kans.; Mrs. Sarah C. Hoy, Burns, Kans.; William Diller, Whitewater, Kans. The Diller family came to Butler county in 1873 and the mother purchased 760 acres of land in Sycamore township and engaged in general farming and stock raising and made a success of her undertakings until the time of her death, which occurred in 1877. The Diller family were Butler county pioneers and suffered the hardships incident to the early years of pioneer life here. Mrs. Peas says that when they came here game of all kinds was plentiful.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peas have been born two children, as follows: Mrs. Eva L. Moore, Acres, Kans.; and Gladys. The younger daughter, Gladys, is a highly accomplished musician of unusual ability. She is a graduate of the Western Conservatory of Music of Chicago, having completed her studies in that institution in 1912, and now resides at home with her parents. The Peas family are members of the Lutheran church, and are well known and prominent in Butler county.

**J. L. Hunt**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Chelsea township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Warren county, on November 16, 1864, and is a son of George W. and Sydney (Phillips) Hunt, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Ohio. The Hunt family came to Kansas in 1879, and located in Butler county, where the father bought 200 acres of land and engaged in general farming and stock

raising. He was successful in his undertakings and became one of Butler county's substantial citizens. He and his wife are now deceased.

J. L. Hunt was about fifteen years of age when he came to Butler county with his father, and he has a distinct recollection of the conditions that existed in Butler county in the early days and can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life. He came here at a time when Butler county was in its early formative period and saw much of Butler county's history in the making, as it were. When he was a boy he worked for fifty cents a day, hauling rock. He had his experiences with the early day prairie fires and other elements of destruction and annoyance which seemed to beset the pathway of the early pioneers. With all the hardships and inconveniences, he experienced many amusing and enjoyable occasions, however. There was an abundance of game here when the Hunt family settled in Butler county, and Mr. Hunt tells of seeing a deer one day while he was deer hunting, as he supposed, but when he saw the deer, he not only forgot that he was deer hunting, but also forgot that he had a gun until the deer was out of range.

Mr. Hunt was married December 5, 1883, to Miss Sarah Davidson, and the following children were born to them: G. R., El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Mattie Holderman, El Dorado; Effie, an accomplished musician and a graduate of music, having received a course of instruction under Miss Alta Carter; Leonard, El Dorado; and Hazel, attending school. The wife, and mother of these children, died October 8, 1915. The Hunt family is well known and highly respected in the community, and Mr. Hunt is one of the progressive and substantial citizens of Butler county.

**James C. Henrie.**—In studying the development of any locality there is always to be found a leading spirit, a dominant factor, a personal force that has been the chief element in the progress and development of that community. James C. Henrie, whose name introduces this review, belongs to that type of men. To his initiative and public-spiritedness is largely due the fact that the town of Benton has a place on the map and is one of the thriving little business centers of Butler county. When the Missouri Pacific railroad was built, Mr. Henrie donated thirty acres of land for the location of the depot and he gave the ground to the city which is the present site of the public school building, and every movement that has been inaugurated for the up-building and betterment of Benton has had the unqualified support and co-operation of Mr. Henrie.

James C. Henrie was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1844, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Henrie, natives of Pennsylvania. There is one other child of Joseph and Mary Henrie besides James C., now living, viz.: Mrs. Martha J. Rand, of Riverside, Wash. The parents came to Butler county in 1884, where the father died November 18, 1892, aged ninety-one years, and the mother passed away in 1913, at the age of ninety-seven.



When James C. Henrie was a child about one year old the family removed from Columbia county, Pennsylvania, to Kane county, Illinois, and here young Henrie grew to manhood and received a good common school education. He lived the peaceful life of the average farmer boy until the life of the Nation was threatened by the spirit of secession and breeders of rebellion in the early sixties.

Young Henrie had just passed the age of eighteen and on August 9, 1862, enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth regiment, Illinois infantry, and for three years and six days bore arms in defense of the the Union in the Southland. His first military service was under Grant in the Army of the West, and he was with his regiment on the march from LaGrange, Tenn., to Yacana, Miss. They returned to LaGrange in December, 1862, and in the following January were on a campaign to Memphis, and from there to Lake Providence; thence to Millikin's Bend and Port Gibson, participating in the battles of Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg, Fort Hill, Monroe, Brownsville, and was on a campaign in Mississippi, and with Sherman's division on the Meridian expedition, Yazoo City, Benton, Jackson Cross Roads, White River, Memphis, Mobile, Montgomery, and the storming and capture of Spanish Fort.

During its period of service this regiment covered a distance of 4,100 miles, including the expeditions both by land and water. They participated in ten battles, fourteen skirmishes and two sieges, one siege occupying forty-seven days and nights, and the other, thirteen days and nights. They were under fire eighty-two days and sixty nights. At the close of the war and after having made a military record of which any man might be justly proud, he was honorably discharged August 15, 1865.

After the war was over, Mr. Henrie returned to his Illinois home, and on April 15, 1872, came to Butler county, Kansas, locating on the northeast quarter of section 21, where he homesteaded, and he also bought 320 acres of school land on the deferred payment plan, and he says, even at that, the payments were not deferred enough. When he came to this county he was better equipped than many of the pioneers to begin life in a new country, and yet he had his ups and downs, the downs appearing to be more frequent than the ups. He had three horses to begin with, and earned his first money in Butler county by breaking prairie for a neighbor.

Mr. Henrie was a pioneer, in many ways, in Benton township. He erected the first windmill there, and built the first barn. He owned the first spring wagon in that locality, which was considered a real luxury in those days. This was in an age before there was any rivalry as to who should own the highest priced automobile in the neighborhood, and Mr. Henrie's spring wagon became a sort of neighborhood property. Any boy who wanted to put on style for a day, took the wagon and no questions were asked, and then kept it until some other neighbor wanted it,

and when the time came that Mr. Henrie wanted to use his wagon, all he had to do was to go and get it. He used the first barbed wire that was shipped into Wichita, paying nineteen cents per pound for enough to fence ten acres. In the early days he kept a "half way house," where travelers made themselves at home whether they had any money or not; and at times the place was filled to its capacity, the weary wayfarers lying about one deep on the floor.

Mr. Henrie erected the first store building in the town of Benton, and conducted a general mercantile business for a number of years, and served as postmaster there from 1872 to 1886, for which he received \$1 per month, the Government being very considerate of its employees at that time and did not encourage extravagance. When Mr. Henrie came here there was a great deal of large game in this section, including deer and antelope. He remembers when money was scarce and the early settlers practically had no market for their produce. He tells of selling corn at Wichita for ten cents per bushel, and after hauling it there he finally succeeding in finding a market for it in a saloon for fuel purposes, as corn in those days was a cheaper fuel than wood.

Mr. Henrie was married in 1868 to Miss Frances A. White, a daughter of Solomon White, of Illinois. To this union were born the following children: Mrs. Mary Luta Parks, now deceased; Joseph and Cull, both farmers and stockmen in Benton township, the father having given each of them 160 acres of good land, in 1906, and they are now successful and prosperous farmers. The wife and mother died in 1903, and in 1906 Mr. Henrie married Mrs. Leo Lawton, the widow of Dr. Lawton, of Kansas City, Mo.

Mr. Henrie has the finest residence in Benton and is now living retired. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and one of the men whose ability, foresight and industry have given them a place among the builders of Butler county, which should be an inspiration to the present and future generations. Mr. Henrie is a courteous and genial gentleman who has many friends and a large acquaintance in Butler and adjoining counties.

**C. A. Glancey**, of Benton, is a Butler county pioneer and Civil war veteran. He was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1841, and is a son of Jesse and Jane Glancey, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. Mr. Glancey has a brother and two half-sisters living in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Mr. Glancey was reared on a farm, and after receiving a common school education, was living the peaceful life of the average boy of the early sixties when the great Civil war broke out, and about the time he reached his majority, in 1862, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifth regiment, Ohio infantry, and served until the close of the war. He saw much hard service and participated in a number of important battles and a great many skirmishes and engagements of lesser importance. He was at the battles of Perryville, Chickamauga, Bentonville, Mis-

sionary Ridge and many others. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged and mustered out of the service and returned to Ohio.

On October 7, 1866, Mr. Glancey was united in marriage with Miss Jane Fish, a daughter of Lyman and Elizabeth Fish, natives of New York. After their marriage, Mr. Glancey and his wife followed farming in Michigan until 1870, when they came to Kansas, locating on Dry creek, Butler county, where they pre-empted 160 acres of government land. Here they proceeded to establish a home on the wild and unbroken plains. Mr. Glancey had very little capital when he came to this county, and he earned his first money by digging wells, digging the first one for Thomas Harper. Mr. Glancey managed to support his little family and make a living in this way while his first crop was growing. He had two horses when he came here, but had the misfortune of losing one shortly after coming here. He could do very little with one horse and was forced to make a strong effort and considerable sacrifice to secure another. He had sufficient money with which to buy lumber for his little home when he came, but he built it himself, and narrowly escaped losing all his lumber in a prairie fire as an introduction to Butler county. His first house was built of one thickness of rough boards and shingles, but there was no ceiling, either overhead or on the side walls. The only heat they had was furnished by a small cooking stove in which they burned wood, and with this frail shack and the inadequate heating facilities the family suffered much with the cold during the first winter. However, as time went on, he made additional improvements and soon had a comfortable home for his family. In those early days Mr. Glancey did his trading at Augusta. Game was plentiful, and it was not a difficult matter for the early settlers to obtain all necessary meat and it only required a short time to go out and kill any number of prairie chickens or any other kind of wild game, which could be found in abundance. Mr. Glancey went on two buffalo hunting expeditions in the early days, and secured an ample supply of buffalo meat on both occasions.

When Mr. Glancey and his wife came to Butler county they had two children, who had been born in Michigan, Mary and Jesse, and after coming to Kansas two more children were born to them, Edith Estelle and Lyman. Their children are all now married and in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Glancey is a Republican and has taken a keen interest and a prominent part in local politics for a number of years, and has often been a delegate to Republican conventions, and for years he has been treasurer of his school district. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**William C. Waldorf**, a prosperous farmer and stockman of El Dorado township, is a Kansas pioneer. Mr. Waldorf is of New England parentage. His father, William Waldorf, Sr., was a native of Vermont and of German ancestry. William, Sr.'s, father was a native of Ger-

many, and when a young man immigrated to America and settled in Vermont, where he lived for a time and was married. Later he migrated to Pennsylvania and from there to Putnam county, Ohio, where he and his wife spent their lives.

William C. Waldorf's mother bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Hensel and was a native of Richland county, Ohio. Her father was of Pennsylvania Dutch parentage and died in Richland county, Ohio. William C. Waldorf's parents first settled in Putnam county, Ohio, but later removed to Morrow county, and from there to Holmes county, that State, where the mother died. The father, William Waldorf, Sr., was a soldier in the Civil war, as was also William C., the subject of this sketch. The father served in Company I, Sixteenth regiment, Ohio infantry, and died while in the service in a hospital at Milliken's Bend, La., in April, 1863.

William C. Waldorf was one of a family of ten children, the following of whom are living: Samuel, a sketch of whom appears in this volume; Mrs. Mary J. Cramer, Mansfield, Ohio; Mrs. Anna N. Appleman, Corsica, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah E. Wrenn, Boston, Mass.; William C., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Elvira E. Gilbert, Hutchinson, Kans.

When William C. Waldorf was about fourteen years of age, he left home and went to live with the family of a stockman in Wayne county, Ohio. Mr. Waldorf was born September 14, 1845, and enlisted August 7, 1862, in Company H, One Hundred and Second regiment, Ohio infantry, and thus it will be seen that he lacked just one month and seven days of being seventeen years old when he elected to bear arms in defense of his country. He served until the close of that great conflict, and endured many hardships and privations, as well as the dangers incident to the life of a soldier, and at the close of the war, received his honorable discharge. He then returned to Ohio, where he followed farming for a time, when he went to Shelby county, Illinois.

Four years later he went to Iowa county, Iowa, and after spending about a year there, returned to Shelby county, Illinois, where he remained until 1870. He then came to Butler county, Kansas, with a colony of people from Maringo, Iowa, numbering twenty-four in all. They drove from Iowa to Butler county with a train of seven wagons, and made the trip between September 6 and November 6, 1871. Mr. Waldorf and some of the others of the party settled in Fairview township, Butler county, and about a year later, he went to McPherson county, where he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising until 1902, when he returned to Butler county and bought a farm in El Dorado township, one mile south of the city limits of El Dorado. Here he owns 175 acres of some of Butler county's most valuable land. Mr. Waldorf resides on his place, but rents the land to his son, and Mr. Waldorf is practically retired.

October 21, 1873, William C. Waldorf and Miss Phoebe Appleman were united in marriage. She is a daughter of John R. and Mary

(Waldorf) Appleman, and was born in Wood county, Ohio, December 14, 1855. The Appleman family came to Butler county in 1870 from Maringo, Iowa, when Mr. Waldorf came, and located in Fairview township. Later the parents removed to Great Bend, Kans., and from there to St. Louis, Mo., where they died. To Mr. and Mrs. William C. Waldorf have been born ten children, as follows: Jessie V., who married Charles E. Parks, El Dorado township; Samuel J., who lives at Dexter, Cowley county, Kansas; Charles A., who is engaged in the grocery business at El Dorado; Harry R., who was a railroad man and was killed in Denver; John M. operates the home place; Gertrude married Gus Benjamin, Kokomo, Ind.; Emma and Mamie reside at home; Burton and Louis died in infancy.

While living in McPherson county Mr. Waldorf took quite an active part in politics and served as township trustee and held other offices of trust and responsibility. He has been a life-long Republican, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic; Lew Wallace Post, El Dorado; and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is also a member of the Christian church. Mr. and Mrs. Waldorf are one of the pioneer couples in Butler county, and can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life on the plains when they first came here in 1870. At that time the country was new and frontier conditions prevailed to a great extent. Wild game was plentiful and wild turkey and prairie chickens were just common every day articles of food.

**S. Shaffer**, a prominent stockman and farmer of Benton township and early settler in Butler county, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Starke county, and is a son of Conrad and Sarah Shaffer. His father died in early life leaving four children, two of whom are now living: S., the subject of this sketch, and Oliver, who now resides at Forgan, Okla. The mother married again in Ohio, to M. W. Priest, and in 1870 the family came to Kansas and located in Benton township, Butler county, where they pre-empted 160 acres of land. When they came here Emporia was the nearest railroad point, and Wichita was just in its initial stage. There were only two little stores there and only two long cabins between Benton and Wichita.

Mr. Shaffer began life for himself in 1877 when he bought a claim of 160 acres, for which he paid \$50. After farming for a short time he sold his place at a good profit and bought 160 acres in Towanda township, and now owns 320 acres, which constitute one of the finest farms in Butler county, and which is known as the "Shaffer Stock Farm." Mr. Shaffer is considered to be one of the most successful farmers and stockmen in Butler county, having met with uniform success in that field of endeavor.

Mr. Shaffer was married in 1881 to Miss Sophrona Dunnire, a daughter of George and Anna Dunnire, of Illinois. Mrs. Shaffer has five living brothers, as follows: Robert, Seattle; James lives in Oregon; George, Iowa; Denton, Chandler, Okla., and William, Tulsa, Okla.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer have been born the following children: Mrs. Elsie Poorbaugh, Zelma, Okla.; Edna, Mabel, Albert B. and Mrs. Ethel Boedecker, all living in the vicinity of Benton, Kans.

Mr. Shaffer lived alone on his claim in Benton township for the first five years, and endured all the hardships and inconveniences of pioneer life, and yet with it all, he enjoyed himself. Buffalo hunting was his favorite sport, and he has killed a great many buffalo on various hunting expeditions. Like all experienced buffalo hunters, he understood the habits and traits of those animals, and it is very interesting to hear him tell of some of the clever things which he gives the buffalo credit for knowing and doing. He says that large herds of buffalo were guarded by the buffalo bulls, after the plan of the picket line of an army, and sometimes this guard would be composed of several of these animals, who would frequently take up a position five or six miles from the herd, and when they saw any one approaching they apparently gave some sort of an alarm signal, and the whole herd would immediately sweep across the plains like the wind. One of the difficult problems, he says, of the buffalo hunter of the early days was to get by these guards or sentinels and get within the range of the herd to begin his execution.

Mr. Shaffer has taken a commendable interest in local affairs and has given especial attention to the public schools, always having been an advocate of good schools, and all his children have obtained good educations, and Edna and Mabel are teachers. Mr. Shaffer served on the school board of his district for twenty-five years.

**Mrs. J. E. Harding**, of Benton township, belongs to a family of Butler county pioneers. She was born in that part of Virginia, that is now West Virginia, in 1849, a daughter of Michael and Matilda Gidley, natives of Virginia, and of old Virginia stock, the former being of English and the latter of Irish descent. They came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1870, and for a time lived in a tent, surrounded by the primitive conditions of the plains, and they homesteaded 150 acres in Benton township, and during their second year on their claim they built a small house of native lumber.

Michael Gidley, Mrs. Harding's father, dug the first well in Benton township, and the water from this well supplied fourteen families, many of whom came a long distance to this well for their supply of water. He drove from where Benton now stands to the present site of the city of Wichita when there was not even a trail across that stretch of prairie, and made the first wagon tracks between those two points.

Like most of the early settlers, he was forced to do almost any kind of work for meager compensation in order to make both ends meet during the strenuous pioneer days. He frequently walked to Towanda, a distance of six miles, and after sawing wood all day, would return home carrying a stick of wood, which furnished fuel with which to cook his breakfast. After he had paid the expenses of filing on his claim he

had a cash capital of seventy-five cents to begin life in a new country. Prices of provisions were as high as money was scarce, corn costing \$2 per bushel, and other provisions in proportion.

The abundance of game, however, furnished the early settlers a plentiful supply of meat, their main food of that nature being venison and prairie chickens. Mr. Harding killed a great many deer, often in close proximity to his home. One day he stood on the south door of his cabin and shot a deer, and looking over his shoulder out of the opposite door he saw another one, which his unerring aim soon converted also into the family meat supply.

J. E. Harding and Miss Mattie Gidley were married in 1867, and came to Butler county in 1870, homesteading 160 acres of land in Benton township. Mr. Harding was a native of Charleston, Me., born February 7, 1839. When seventeen years of age he left his New England home and went to Illinois, locating at Odell, where he remained until August 12, 1862, when he enlisted in Company M, First Illinois light artillery, and served until the close of the war. He participated in many of the important battles of that great struggle and received his honorable discharge July 24, 1865, with a spotless military record to his credit. He was severely wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863, but rejoined his command as soon as he was able.

Mr. Harding was a carpenter, and after coming to Butler county worked at his trade, while his faithful wife and little family "held down the claim" on the barren plains. Mrs. Harding also cared for her aged parents, cultivated some ground and looked after the cattle. In the early days all their supplies were hauled from Emporia. There were practically no roads, but merely a trail across the country, with no bridges across the streams, and Mrs. Harding recalls that the first year they lived here the season was a very wet one and the swollen streams made travel almost impossible, and wagon trains which were hauling supplies to the Indians and others farther west than Medicine Lodge, were detained here for weeks, being unable to ford the streams.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harding were born the following children; Nora L., Benton, Kans., who was born in Illinois; Mrs. Nellie A. Morehead, Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Matilda M. Wagner, Benton, Kans. Mr. Harding died July 15, 1907. Mrs. Harding resides in Benton township, and belongs to that type of American pioneer women who were not only here and saw the development of the great West, but performed their part in the great role of empire building.

**Edgar A. Spalding**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Benton township, belongs to a pioneer Butler county family. Mr. Spalding was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, October 2, 1855, and is a son of Richard C. and Elsie M. Spalding, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of New York. The mother died in Illinois, and the father and children came to Butler county, settling at Towanda in 1869. A year or two later the father bought 160 acres of land and was engaged in

farming and stock raising until his death, December 28, 1912. He was a successful business man and a good citizen.

The Spaldings were among the very first settlers in Butler county, and Edgar A., who was about fourteen years old when they settled here, has a rich store of many interesting recollections of pioneer days. Emporia was their nearest trading point of any consequence, there being no Wichita at that time. In 1870 the elder Spalding did some work on the Meade ranch, which was located where the city of Wichita now stands, and that year was about the beginning of the settlement of Wichita. He, with James R. Meade, broke the first ground in Wichita. There were few permanent settlers in Butler county at that time, and Mr. Spalding says that his father frequently killed deer and buffalo, which were their principal sources of meat. The "sand-hill" plum was also gathered in large quantities and served as an article of food.

Mr. Spalding was educated in the public schools and remained with his father on the home farm in early life, and about the time he reached the age of twenty-one he took charge of the farm, and through industry, guided by more than ordinary business ability, he has become one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Butler county. He was married October 4, 1882, to Miss Serepta Mooney, a daughter of Rev. Isaac Mooney, a Butler county pioneer, a narrative of whose life appears in this volume. To Edgar A. and Serepta (Mooney) Spalding have been born the following children: Mrs. Margaret E. Leuszler, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Georgia Jackson, Lankershin, Colo.; Mrs. Grace Kenoyer, Kansas City, Mo.; Edgar A., Jr., Benton; and Harriet I., Benton.

Mr. Spalding takes a commendable interest in local affairs and has served as trustee and clerk of Benton township. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, and he and Mrs. Spalding belong to the Christian church.

**Dr. O. N. Lightner**, a prominent Butler county physician and surgeon, now engaged in the practice of his profession in the thriving town of Benton, is a native of Iowa. Dr. Lightner was born at Hillsdale, that State, in 1881, and is a son of John C. and Helen S. (Tawney) Lightner, the former a descendant of Revolutionary ancestors of German-English descent. Helen S. Tawney, Dr. Lightner's mother, is of French-Swiss ancestry, and a direct descendant of Bishop Jacob Mast, of Switzerland, who sailed from Rotterdam, November 3, 1750, and located at Philadelphia, Pa., and the direct line of descent from him to Dr. Lightner's mother is as follows: Jacob Mast married Magdalene Holler; Magdalene Mast married Christian Zook; David Zook married Susana La-Fevre; Katherine Zook married Abraham Tawney, and Helen S. Tawney was born to this marriage and married John C. Lightner, and they are the parents of Dr. Lightner.

John C. Lightner came to Kansas with his family in 1884, locating in Sumner county, and he and his wife now reside at Wichita. He is



a Civil war veteran, having served in the Second regiment, Iowa infantry, until he was discharged on account of disability, which incapacitated him for further military service.

Dr. Lightner was three years old when he came to Kansas with his parents, and has always been a hustler, having practically made his own way in the world and defrayed the expense of his own education. He made his first money riding one of the lead horses to a binder, and later, while attending school at Wichita, sold newspapers. Having completed his academic and classical education, he matriculated in Washington University Medical School in 1901, and was graduated from that institution with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1905. After passing the examination before the Kansas State Board of Medical Registration, the same year, he went to Old Mexico, where he was engaged in the practice of his profession until 1911.

He then returned to Butler county and practiced at Andover one year, after which he took a post graduate course at Tulane University, New Orleans, La. From there he went to Cuba, and after passing the examination in the medical department of the University of Havana, he became superintendent of the hospital of the United Fruit Company, at Preston, Cuba. He remained in that position until 1914, when he became afflicted with tropical fevers, which necessitated his returning to the North. He resigned his position, and in 1914 located at Benton, where he has a large practice and is one of Butler county's busiest physicians. The United Fruit Company has made Dr. Lightner a liberal offer, in the way of a large salary, to return to his former post in Cuba, but he has declined to accept the same, being content with his present practice.

Dr. Lightner was united in marriage on August 16, 1906, with Senorita Isable Pina, a daughter of Gen. Niconor Pina Celia Vasques de Pina, of Ocampo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Mrs. Lightner is a descendant of the Viscounts of Spain. To Dr. and Mrs. Lightner has been born one child, Oscar Santiago, born July 25, 1907.

**E. T. Harper**, of Benton township, well known in Butler county as a successful farmer and stock breeder, is a native son of this county. He was born in Benton township in 1876, and is a son of Dr. L. A. and M. L. (Nelson) Harper. The mother was a daughter of Edwin and Maria Nelson of Wisconsin, and she was a native of that State.

Dr. L. A. Harper came to Butler county with his parents in 1870, they being among the early settlers of this section. Dr. Harper was born near Hartford, Wis., March 9, 1847, and attended the district and village schools. In early life, he taught school a number of terms, and later took a course in a Milwaukee commercial college. He then attended medical college at Cleveland, Ohio, and prepared himself for the practice of medicine. He came to Butler county with his parents in 1870, and practiced his profession for a number of years, but was compelled to give it up on account of failing health. He was an invalid for

a number of years, and a patient sufferer, who bore his afflictions with fortitude. He died August 10, 1902, and is remembered as a kind friend and good neighbor who always entertained a broad sympathy and kindly feeling for his fellow man.

Dr. Harper and wife were the parents of three children, as follows: E. T., the subject of this sketch; Flora E., Augusta, Kans., and Mrs. Susan M. Snodgrass, Towanda, Kans.

E. T. Harper was reared in Benton township and received a good public school education. Mr. Harper has made farming and stock raising his study and occupation. He specializes in Ayrshire cattle, and is also quite an extensive and successful hog raiser. He owns one of the fine farms of Benton township, and is one of the substantial men of Butler county.

Mr. Harper was married July 3, 1902, to Miss Nellie M. Fuller, a daughter of Milo and Frances Fuller of Andover, Kans. Two children have been born to this union, as follows: Luman M., and Clifford N.

Mr. Harper is a Republican and takes an active interest in local affairs, and the well being of the community. He is especially interested in good schools, and has been a member of the school board for a number of years. He has also been clerk of Benton township.

**S. McGlade**, one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Benton township, Butler county, is a native of Ohio. He was born at Dresden, May 14, 1851, and is a son of John and Mary Jane (Mutchler) McGlade. The father was born in 1828 in Ohio, and the mother was also a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Henry Mutchler, who was of German descent. John McGlade died in Illinois in 1880, and his wife came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1882, and now resides in Wichita. They were the parents of the following children: Henry, Champaign, Ill.; John, Augusta, Kans.; Albert, Red Bluff, Cal.; Mrs. Frances Howe, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Ida Evans, Binger, Okla.; Mrs. Lettie West, Monte Rose, Cal., and S., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. McGlade was married in 1878, to Miss Martha L. Rainey, a daughter of William and Mary Jane Rainey, of Ohio. The Rainey family came to Kansas in 1878, and the parents are both now deceased. They were the parents of the following children: John, Decatur, Ill.; James, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Reuhl, Chatsworth, Ill.; Mrs. Ella Hull, Rosalia, Kans., and Martha L., now the wife of S. McGlade, the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. McGlade have been born three children: Clarence, engaged in farming and stock raising near Augusta; Frank and Hazel Mary, residing at home.

Mr. and Mrs. McGlade had been married about a year when, in 1879, they came to Butler county, Kansas, and bought eighty acres of land in Benton township, and engaged in general farming and stock raising. They prospered and added to their original acreage until they now own 400 acres of land which is considered to be one of the best farms in Butler county. Mr. McGlade is a successful grain raiser, but has given

special attention to the stock business, and raises and feeds large numbers of cattle, sheep and hogs. He attributes what success he has had largely to the fact that he has aimed to feed the grain and hay that he has raised to his cattle on the place and to sell his cattle, or the finished product, of his farm at a profit, and at the same time maintain the fertility of his place. He has also endeavored to raise a sufficient amount of feed on his own place for his stock. However, he has varied at times from this general rule, exceptions being unavoidable. He is a strong advocate of the cash basis method of business and believes in paying as he goes. He has succeeded in interesting his boys in farming and stock raising, and they are enthusiastic twentieth century farmers.

Mr. McGlade is a great advocate of the farm as a substantial home for future generations, and believes that the "back to the soil" movement is the logical solution of abnormal sociological conditions of the congested centers of population. He believes that the present prices of farm products offer unusual opportunities for the producer. He is one of the successful farmers of Butler county whose career might well be studied and emulated.

**F. H. Penley**, president of the First National Bank and a leading factor in the business affairs of Augusta, is a native of Maine. He was born at Bethel, Oxford county, in 1856, a son of Charles Freeland and Abbie (Locke) Penley, also natives of Maine. They were the parents of three children, as follows: F. H., the subject of this sketch; Alice Manley, a Baptist missionary in India, who began her career in that capacity in 1879, as a representative of the Augusta First Baptist Church, and A. E. Penley, a grain and seed dealer, Delta, Colo.

F. H. Penley came to Kansas with his parents in 1870, when he was about fourteen years of age. The family settled about two miles north of Augusta where the father took up a claim and followed farming and stock raising. This was an early day in the settlement of Butler county, and the Penleys were one of the pioneer families of that section. F. H. spent his youth on the home place and received a good common school education. At the age of twenty-one, he engaged in farming and stock raising, and for thirty years was successfully engaged in that business. In 1901, he was instrumental in organizing the Augusta State Bank, becoming vice-president of that institution, and has been identified with that bank as a leading stockholder and officer to the present time, although the bank has been reorganized and is now the First National Bank.

The Augusta State Bank was organized in 1901, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00, and one year later was reorganized, becoming the First National Bank of Augusta, and the capital stock increased to \$25,000.00 and it has a surplus of \$5,000.00. This bank has a record of fifteen years of prosperous and successful banking to its credit, and is one of the solid banks of the State, and some of the best business men of Augusta and vicinity are among its officers and stockholders. The present



F. H. PENLEY



MRS. F. H. PENLEY

officers are: F. H. Penley, president; H. W. Wilson, vice-president; W. A. Penley, cashier; A. R. Peckham, assistant cashier; and the directors are: J. W. Skaer, F. H. Penley, W. A. Penley, H. W. Wilson, John Guthrie, M. F. Taylor, W. W. Peckham, A. R. Peckham and W. B. Earll, and E. C. Penley.

Mr. Penley's activities have not been confined to any one field of endeavor. In 1908, he entered the mercantile field, and purchased the J. H. Butts & Son stock of hardware and implements and organized the Paul & Penley Hardware Company. This concern does an extensive business, and is one of the strong mercantile institutions in southern Kansas. Besides their Augusta store they have a branch store at Mulvane, Kans., which does a business equal in volume to the Augusta store.

Mr. Penley is one of the pioneer oil and gas developérs of the great Augusta field, and is extensively interested in that field of activity as a member of the Skaer Gas and Drilling Company. Few men are entitled to more credit for the greater Augusta than Mr. Penley. He is one of the substantial men of the community, and a dominant factor in the recent unparalleled development of Augusta and vicinity.

Mr. Penley was united in marriage in 1877, at Augusta, to Miss Ellen F. Colburn. She belongs to a pioneer Kansas family and was born in Massachusetts. The Colburn family came to Kansas in 1854, when Mrs. Penley was a child. They settled at Lawrence, Kans., and lived there when Quantrill, the notorious guerilla, sacked and burned the town. To Mr. and Mrs. Penley have been born four children, as follows: Walter, cashier of the First National Bank, Augusta, Kans., married Winnie Paul, of Augusta; Earnest C., member of the Paul & Penley Hardware Company, Augusta, Kans., married Pearl Paul of Augusta; Ruth, married Roy J. Paul, a farmer near Augusta, and Charles W., a student of Baker University and member of the class of 1916.

**E. A. Bachelder**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Murdock township and a member of a Butler county pioneer family, is a native of New York. He was born in 1856, and is a son of Nathaniel and Rosanna Bachelder, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Ireland. They were the parents of the following surviving children: Nathaniel, Wichita, Kans.; W. H., Wichita, and E. A., the subject of this sketch.

The father was a carpenter in early life, back East, but removed to Illinois where he engaged in farming until 1873. He then came to Kansas with his family where he also engaged in farming, giving almost his entire attention to raising wheat, which he sold at a fair price, considering the day and age, usually getting about a dollar a bushel, after hauling it to Wichita or Newton. The family lived in a box house 12x14 feet consisting of one room, when they first came to Kansas, the boys sleeping in a straw house. They found timber enough in the vicinity of their home for the frame work of the new house and other lumber, which was

used in its construction, they hauled from Newton. This house when completed consisted of four rooms and was considered one of the fine residences of that day, and frequently the young people came from a radius of thirty miles to attend dances there, Judge Mooney, the author of this work, being one of the young folks who often attended these dances.

Nathaniel Bachelder, the father, became one of the prosperous men of the community, and at the time of his death in 1903, he owned a half section of land. His wife died in 1886. E. A. Bachelder remained on the home farm until he was about twenty-five years of age when he began life for himself. In 1887, he bought 160 acres of land where he now resides and later bought another 160 adjoining it. He has met with uniform success in his farming operations and has been unusually successful in raising horses, mules and hogs, which have yielded him very satisfactory profits.

Mr. Bachelder was married in 1878, to Miss Mahala Wallace, a daughter of T. J. and Mary Wallace of Missouri. Mrs. Bachelder is one of the following children: W. D. Wallace, Benton; Mrs. Martha Cochran, Bartlesville, Okla.; Mrs. Mary Cochran, El Dorado; Mrs. Georgie McMasters, Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Rose Henry, Benton, Kans., and Mrs. Bachelder. The Wallace family were among the early settlers of Bourbon county, Kansas, locating there in 1869. In 1872, they came west, locating in Sedgwick county, then on the frontier, and Mrs. Bachelder remembers having often seen Indians wandering across the plains in bands of varying sizes.

The Wallace family suffered many hardships in those pioneer days, of which Mrs. Bachelder has a vivid recollection. She says when a girl she wore "government shoes" to school; they were regular men's shoes, coarse and heavy, and she has gone to school without her dinner because there was none for her to take, but she rejoices in the fact that she has lived to see all this changed, but it is possible that the vicissitudes of these early days served a purpose. It was the acid test of endurance, and a case of the survival of the fittest. The privations of the early days were the great kindergarten of life that built character and fitted the boys and girls of the plains for the great task of building up a bigger and better industrial system of civilization than the world has ever known before.

Mr. Bachelder, while giving his own personal affairs close and careful attention, has always been able to find time to perform any duty that naturally falls to the lot of a progressive member of the community. He has taken a deep interest in education, and has served on the school board of his district for a number of years, and at present is the treasurer of Murdock township.

Mr. and Mrs. Bachelder are the parents of the following children: Roscoe, Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Stella Leap, Furley, Kans.; Floyd, married Hazel Wait, of Murdock township, and resides in Murdock township; Ira, Theodore, Waunita and Berdine, all at home.

**A. W. Arnold**, a prosperous farmer and stockman who, by his industry, has not only made a comfortable home for himself, but has contributed to the development, beauty and productiveness of Butler county, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Peoria county in January, 1854, and is a son of William A. and Louisa (Fisher) Arnold. William A. Arnold, the father, was a native of Vermont, born in Windham county, that State, October 8, 1826, and when seventeen years old, he went to Illinois and located in Peoria county. He was married to Miss Louisa Fisher, June 6, 1850, and the following children of that union are now living: A. W., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Lydia Edson, Benton, Kans., and Mrs. Mary Stowers, Brimfield, Ill. The father was a farmer near Brimfield, Ill., and is now deceased. He was a very religious man, and, for a number of years, was a deacon in the Baptist church. His wife, and mother of Mr. Arnold, is still living at the advanced age of eighty-two years.

A. W. Arnold came to Kansas in 1881, and the following year bought 160 acres of land in Murdock township, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has been very successful in his farming operations, and has given considerable attention to raising cattle and hogs, and has been unusually successful with the latter. He has a well improved farm with a comfortable residence.

Mr. Arnold was married in 1882 to Hattie Robinson Clark, a daughter of Elder Sumner and Cordelia Robinson, natives of Maine. The Robinson family came to Kansas in 1877, and settled in Sedgwick county, where the father bought 160 acres of land. There were eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, three living: Mrs. C. H. Daniels, La Harpe, Kans.; Mrs. Albie Baird, Monte Vista, Colo., and Mrs. Arnold. To Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have been born four children, two of whom are living: S. A. Arnold, Beaver, Okla., and E. F. Arnold, Benton, Kans. Mrs. Arnold had one son by her former marriage, Albert F. Clark, Ridge, Ark. The Arnolds are well known in Butler county, and are reckoned among the substantial citizens of Murdock township.

**Jesse A. Hawes**, a veteran of the Civil war, who is one of the prominent farmers and stockmen of Murdock township, has been a resident of this county since January, 1877. Mr. Hawes was born in Illinois, February 14, 1845, and is a son of Peter J. and Julia Hawes, natives of Kentucky. The Hawes family is a prominent old American family, dating back to Colonial days. John Hawes, Sr., of Maryland, who was born in 1791 and became a prominent figure in American life, was a member of this family. The Hawes family came to Kansas, settling in Lincoln township, Butler county, in 1876. The father bought 160 acres of land upon coming here, which he later sold, and bought 240 acres in Linn county, and exchanged that tract for 120 acres in Butler county, near Augusta, and died on that place. After his death, his wife made her home with Jesse A. for a number of years, when she, too, passed

away. They were the parents of the following children: Jesse A., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Isabelle A. Griggs, Washington; Mrs. Mary C. Zollers, Augusta, Kans.; Charles W., Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Louisa F. McCann, Benton, Kans.; Joseph A., Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Nancy M. Mackey, Perry, Okla., and Marion C., Benton, Kans.

Jesse A. Hawes spent his boyhood days on the farm in Illinois, and attended the common schools until he was seventeen years old. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred Sixth regiment, Illinois infantry, and, during his term of service, his health failed, and he was discharged on account of physical disability.

Mr. Hawes was married September 1, 1864, to Miss Roselda L. Castle, and in 1876, came to Kansas, locating in Sedgwick county, near where Mulvane now stands, and came to Butler county in January, 1877. During his first four years here, he farmed rented land, and then bought 160 acres in Murdock township. After living on that place for twelve years, he sold it and bought the place where he now resides, which consists of 160 acres of fertile and productive land, which is one of the best farms in the county.

When Mr. Hawes first came to Butler county, he lived north of El Dorado on the road traveled extensively by freighters, and they frequently stopped at his house over night. He recalls that they stopped at his place with the second printing press that was ever brought to El Dorado, and the roads were so muddy they could not haul it any farther, so they divided it, and hauled it to El Dorado in two loads. Game was plentiful when Mr. Hawes came here. He says, he has seen acres of antelope, but the little fellows were not easy to kill.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawes have five children, as follows: Mrs. Grace Bauman, Mustang, Okla.; John H., Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Jessie M. Gale, Red Rock, Okla.; Mrs. Maggie C. Ballard, Attica, Kans.; Charles D. Benton, Kans., and Mrs. Isabelle V. Parks, deceased. Mr. Hawes has seen many changes since coming to Butler county, and has been an active factor in the great evolution of this barren and unpeopled waste, to one of the prosperous and productive sections of the country.

**Samuel P. Gale**, one of the prominent farmers and stockmen of Murdock township, is an early settler of that part of Butler county. He was born at Malden, N. Y., April 23, 1842, and his parents were Harvey and Ursula Gale. The father was born in Columbia county, New York, June 16, 1806, and is a descendant of Connecticut stock. He was married to Ursula Roberts, February 22, 1827, and two sons of this union are now living, Samuel P., the subject of this sketch, and Isaac J., who resides at Atlanta, Ill.

In 1872, Samuel P. Gale came to Butler county, settling in Murdock township, and homesteaded eighty acres of land, where he engaged in farming and stockraising. Since that time, he has bought another eighty acres, and now has one of the valuable farms of Murdock township, and has met with unusual success in his chosen vocation. However, like



most of the other early settlers, he encountered many difficulties and discouraging features before he was properly started on the high road to success. When he came here he had only one horse, but succeeded in buying a pony on credit and for the first few years crops were poor, money scarce and hard times prevailed generally. Drouths, grasshoppers, hail, cyclones, and hot winds kept most of the early settlers guessing, where they were going to get their next meal or sleep that night.

In 1874 Mr. Gale drove to Coffey county to get seed wheat and the following year had a good crop of wheat. This gave him a start, and fortified him for a few more failures. His first house in Butler county was a one-room affair, 12x14 feet, which was replaced in due time by a more pretentious and commodious residence and the Gale farm is now well equipped with farm buildings and the place is under a high state of cultivation, presenting an attractive appearance.

Mr. Gale was married November 16, 1881, to Miss Henrietta C. a daughter of Henry and Helen Bush of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Bush were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Marguerite J. Pracht, Burns, Kans.; Hiram, Wichita, Kans.; Henrietta, wife of Samuel P. Gale, the subject of this sketch; James, Gibson City, Ill.; William, Wichita; John, Whitewater, and Robert, Wichita. The Bush family came to Butler county in 1871, locating in Benton township, where they homesteaded 160 acres of land. Mrs. Gale recalls many of their experiences in the early days which were mostly made up of inconveniences and hardships. She says Rev. Isaac Mooney was their pioneer preacher, and the first time she went to church in Butler county, services were held in a hay barn. To Mr. and Mrs. Gale have been born two children: Henry, who resides at home, and Mrs. Ursula Chaney, Whitewater, Kans.

Mr. Gale has always taken an interest in township and county affairs, and served as justice of the peace for eight years; and during that time performed eight marriage ceremonies, and we have no record that any of his matrimonial knots were ever untied, which would indicate that the marriage ceremony was properly performed. He is a supporter of good schools and for a number of years served on the school board.

**M. P. Claypool**, of Murdock township, is one of the successful farmers and stockmen, whose enterprise and effort have made Butler county one of the great, political sub-divisions of the State of Kansas. Mr. Claypool was born in Knox county, Missouri, in 1851, and he is a son of Josephus and Sarah E. Claypool, the former a native of Indiana, and the latter of Virginia. The Claypool family, consisting of the parents and five children, came to Kansas in 1870, settling on a farm of 160 acres in Murdock township, Butler county. When they first came here, the wagon in which they drove across the country was their only home, until they built a little house.

Their first home was built of native lumber, which was sawed at the little mill at Towanda. There were lots of deer here at that time,

and prairie chickens could be found on the plains in countless numbers. The elder Claypool was quite a buffalo hunter, and made several trips, a little farther west where buffalo were still plentiful, and always returned with a good supply of meat. The settlers at that time depended largely upon buffalo, deer, and prairie chickens for their supply of meat. Staple supplies, such as meat and groceries, were very high priced; flour and sugar were about twice the present price, and bacon was about thirty-five cents a pound, and money was scarce. M. P. Claypool killed lots of deer and prairie chickens, but his father did most of the buffalo hunting for the family.

M. P. Claypool recalls many incidents in the pioneer life of Butler county. Whitewater was a popular rendezvous for Texas cattlemen, who wintered large numbers of cattle there, and frequently the Texas cowboys attended local dances, in the neighborhood, dancing being the principal pastime of the young people. Sometimes the cowboys would get rough, but their rows were generally between themselves, and no serious harm resulted. The young men among the early settlers of Butler county were law-abiding, and, as a rule, a very honorable class of young fellows.

Mr. Claypool has made farming and stock raising his life's occupation. In 1930, he bought the old home place in Murdock township, and afterward bought a quarter section adjoining it, and now has a splendid farm of 320 acres. The neat appearance of the place bespeaks the industry and prosperity of its owner. Mr. Claypool keeps a number of work horses and usually keeps his place stocked with about seventy-five head of cattle, and an equal number of hogs.

In 1882, Mr. Claypool was united in marriage with Miss Cora Metz, the daughter of Thomas and Thurza Metz, who came to Kansas in 1880, and settled in Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Claypool have been born the following children: Mrs. Hattie Stuart, Benton, Kans.; Frank, Whitewater, Kans.; Rilla, Whitewater, Kans.; Mrs. Della McCann, Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Pearl Mason, Furley, Kans., and Thursa, Gladys, Pauline, and Mildred, all residing at home.

The members of the Claypool family are well known in Butler county, and are highly respected. Mr. Claypool takes a lively interest in local affairs insofar as good citizenship is concerned, and has served as trustee of Murdock township for twelve or fourteen years, and has also served as township treasurer.

**W. J. Houston**, a prominent citizen of Murdock township, is a dominant factor in the affairs of that township, and has been a part of the progress of Butler county for thirty-seven years. Mr. Houston is a native of North Carolina, and his parents, James F. and Mary (Patterson) Houston, were descendants of old southern families of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

W. J. Houston located in Butler county in 1879, coming here at the solicitation of Mr. Cameron, a real estate man, who brought him out to

what was then known as the "Whitewater District." He did not buy land immediately upon coming here, but rented eighty acres and engaged in the stock business. After renting for two years he was so favorably impressed with the locality that he bought 160 acres in Murdock township and began the stock business on his own place. He "batched" for the first year and in April 1883 he was married to Miss Susan M. White, then a Butler county school teacher. She is a daughter of John White, a pioneer of Plum Grove township.

During the first year on his place, Mr Houston had made many improvements, including a good residence, hay barn, stable, etc. He has combined stock raising with general farming and has been unusually successful. He now owns a section of fine productive bottom land, the value of which, when he bought it, ranged from \$15 to \$30 per acre. It is now worth between \$75 and \$100 per acre. Mr. Houston has followed the policy of feeding the grain product of his place to his cattle, which he has found to be the most profitable method of farming and stock raising. He is one of the successful alfalfa growers of this section, and has about 100 acres devoted to that crop.

To Mr. and Mrs. Houston have been born seven children, as follows: Eula, Ona, Maggie, Orin, Zada, Alta, and William Harris, all of whom have received good educations and reside at home.

Mr. Houston is a student of men and events and a very close observer. He takes a keen interest in the public affairs of his county and State and has frequently been called to positions of trust and honor by his fellow citizens. He has served one term as county commissioner of Butler county, and in 1912 was elected to represent his district in the State legislature which he did with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. While serving as county commissioner he conducted the affairs of the county in the same business like manner which is characteristic of his painstaking methods in his private business affairs. He has also held a number of local offices, having been a member of the school board for a number of years, and also justice of the peace of Murdock township. He says that Butler county has been good to him. He is a broad-gauged, big hearted and liberal minded man, who realizes and appreciates the honor and trust which his friends and neighbors have imposed in him. Mr. Houston saw much of the history of Butler county in the making, as it were, and is unusually familiar with the story of pioneer life of Butler county.

**A. H. Martin**, a Civil war veteran and prominent farmer and stockman of Sycamore township, is a native of Illinois. He was born near Cairo, in 1841, and is a son of Henson and Marv (Holman) Martin. The Martin family were very early settlers in the Territory of Kansas. In 1854, the father settled on a claim in Atchison county, and A. H. was about thirteen years of age when the family settled there.

He remained on the home farm until the Civil war broke out, and on September 19, 1861, enlisted in Company C, Eighth regiment, Kan-

sas infantry, for three years. He participated in all the engagements in which his regiment took part, and received his honorable discharge, October 3, 1864. He then returned to Atchison county, and purchased ninety acres of land, where he engaged in farming with an ox team. He raised broom corn in the early days, there, and one year, received \$80 per ton for this product. In 1910, he came to Butler county, where he has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Martin was married in November, 1864, to Miss Sophia Cox, a native of Missouri, and a daughter of John Cox. To this union have been born four children, two of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Cora Woodburn, Ashton, Idaho, and Nellie, who resides in Jackson county, Kansas. Mrs. Martin died in 1883.

On March 6, 1884, Mr. Martin married Melvina Hadley, a native of Missouri, and a daughter of William and Melvina Hadley, who were very early settlers in Kansas, coming from Missouri to this State in 1856. To Mr. and Mrs. Martin have been born two children: Mrs. Myrtle Mulanax, Cassoday, Kans., and Robert, Beggs, Okla.

**C. M. Dodge**, a prominent farmer of Benton township and Butler county pioneer, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, November 8, 1852, and is a son of Robert and Sarah (Kemp) Dodge, the former a native of Londondery, N. H., born January 27, 1819, and the latter a native of White Rock, Me. They were married November 22, 1846, and shortly afterward migrated to Wisconsin, when that State was an unbroken wilderness. The father was a shoemaker and worked at his trade in Wisconsin and did some pioneer farming until 1872, when the family came to Kansas, first settling on railroad land and shortly afterward the father bought 160 acres in Benton township. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising and became fairly prosperous.

Robert Dodge was a pioneer of two States. When he went to Wisconsin that State was very sparsely settled, and was admitted to the Union about that time. There were no railroad facilities in Wisconsin then, and Mr. Dodge had to drive to Milwaukee, a distance of ninety miles, to sell his grain or other produce. It will be seen that before he came to Kansas he had received his training in the rough school of pioneer life.

C. M. Dodge, whose name introduces this sketch, is one of a family of the following children: Mrs. Lizzie Newberry, Long Beach, Cal.; Selia, Soldiers' Grove, Wis.; Mrs. Anna Nottingham, Lawrence, Kans.; Mrs. Sarah Drake, Montezuma, Wis.; William, Sioux City, Iowa; A. G., Los Angeles, Cal.; and C. M., the subject of this sketch.

C. M. Dodge had just about reached the age of manhood when the family settled in Butler county. In those days he worked at anything at which he could earn an honest dollar. He hauled piling for the first bridge over the Arkansas river at Wichita. These trips were about thirty miles long, and he frequently slept on the ground under his wagon, with his horses picketed in that vicinity. He suffered much

from the cold, and frequently the wintry winds of the plains were augmented by an early day Kansas blizzard. Out of the first money which Mr. Dodge earned on this work he bought an overcoat, which, if it did not add greatly to his comfort, it at least decreased his discomfort.

Soon after coming to Kansas, C. M. Dodge bought 160 acres of land and engaged in farming, which has been his chief occupation to the present time. The first house which he built on the place has long since given way to a beautiful farm residence, which, together with the well kept general appearance of the place, bears testimony to the capable management and prosperity of the owner of this place.

Mr. Dodge was married on September 24, 1873, to Miss Loretto Claypool, a daughter of Harrison and Edith Claypool, pioneers of Iowa, where the father died in 1853. Later the mother married J. H. Clark, and, in 1872, the family came to Butler county, Kansas, and were one of the pioneer families of this section. Mrs. Dodge was the only child born to her mother's first marriage, and the following children were born to her second marriage: A. B. Clark, Fresno, Cal.; H. H. Clark, Modesto, Cal.; Mrs. Mary Pierce, Los Angeles, Cal.; and John H. Clark, Jr., Oakdale, Cal. To Mr. and Mrs. Dodge have been born the following children: George C., Benton, Kans.; William Robert, Pueblo, Colo.; Mrs. Lotta Maxwell, Neosho, Mo.; Frank E., Hudson, N. Y.; and B. E., Madison, Wis. Frank and B. E. are civil engineers, and are graduates of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where they took the civil engineering course, after having graduated from Fairmount College, Wichita.

Mr. Dodge is a prosperous and substantial farmer and the Dodge family is well known and highly respected.

**Albert Sunbarger**, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Sycamore township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Hocking county in 1873, and is a son of August and Minna Sunbarger, natives of Germany who immigrated to America in 1867, and settled in Ohio. They made the voyage across the Atlantic in an old time sailing vessel, and were three months on the voyage. Twenty-two of the passengers died while crossing the ocean. When the father landed in New York he had only ten dollars, in money.

The family remained in Ohio for eleven years, and in 1878, came west, locating in Sycamore township, Butler county, where the father bought eighty acres of land. Here the father began farming, in a small way, under the adverse conditions of pioneer days. He had only one horse, with which to begin, but by exchanging work with neighbors he succeeded in getting his team work done. He managed to get along the first few years and finally began to prosper until he became one of the well to do men of Sycamore township. August Sunbarger and Minna Reifstahl were married in Ohio, March 31, 1867, and the following children were born to that union: August, Columbus, Ohio; John, Tarkio, Mo.; and Albert, the subject of this sketch.

Albert Sunbarger received his education in the public schools and began life as a farmer and stock raiser, which has since been his occupation. He owns the home farm in Sycamore township which consists of 400 acres of well improved land. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and is also quite extensively interested in dairying.

Mr. Sunbarger was married in August, 1898, to Miss Mattie Tibbets, a daughter of Henry J. and Euphemia (Mather) Tibbets. Henry J. Tibbets was a soldier in the Civil war and served in Companies F and D, Second regiment, Colorado infantry. At one time he owned the land at Augusta, where the glass plant is now located. He died in 1907, and his widow now resides at Verona, Wyo. To Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sunbarger have been born four children, as follows: Lee, Grace, Steven and Alice Maleta. Mr. Sunbarger is one of the substantial men of Sycamore township, and is what might be termed a twentieth century farmer and stockman.

**Austin L. Drake**, a well to do farmer of Murdock township, has been a resident of this county for forty-four years, and has contributed his share, as a pioneer and successful farmer and stockman, in reclaiming the great American desert, and developing the prosperous county of Butler. Mr. Drake was born in Erie county, New York, November 22, 1841, a son of George W. and Jane Drake, natives of New York, who spent their lives in Erie county.

Mr. Drake was reared and educated in his native county and was there married to Miss Margaret A. Murray, a daughter of Henry and Nancy Murray, both natives of Ireland, who settled in Erie county at an early date, where they spent their lives. Mrs. Drake is one of six surviving children born to her parents, the others being as follows: Peter, Buffalo, N. Y.; John, Glenwood, N. Y.; Thomas, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Benjamin, London, Ontario, one of whose sons is now serving in the medical department of the British army in Turkey, and Mrs. Mary Hodge, Omaha, Neb. To Austin L. Drake and wife have been born the following children: Charles M., Avalon, Mo.; H. Lee, Sargent, Neb.; Frank A., Wichita, Kans., and Ray S., Calgary, Canada.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Drake came to Kansas, locating in Murdock township, Butler county, where they bought a claim of eighty acres, and have since added 160 acres to their original possession, which is now one of the valuable farms of Murdock township. They located here March 14, 1872, which was an early day in the settlement of Butler county. Conditions were primitive, conveniences few and life on the plains in those days was not only, not a luxury, but a positive hardship. When the Drakes came here there was no house to afford them shelter on their claim. Mr. Drake bought enough of walnut logs to build his house, and dug the cellar preparatory to erecting his little home, but he did not have sufficient money to build, so he covered the cellar which he had dug with the logs for a roof and they lived in the cellar for a time. During the grasshopper year, he had a good crop of corn which made

one good square meal for the grasshoppers. However, he struggled on through these lean years of the early days, and was often forced to make great sacrifices to get a little money with which to buy the bare necessities of life. He has cut wood and hauled it to Wichita, a distance of about thirty miles, for which he received \$3 a load, the trip requiring about three days, but those times have long since passed, and today Mr. Drake is one of the prosperous citizens of Butler county, and the success that has come to him is justly merited.

When the Drake family settled in Murdock township, game of all kinds was in abundance, and deer frequently came to a spring, that is on their place, for water. Mrs. Drake says that her greatest dread of the early days was her fear of the Indians, as there were a great many bands of them wandering around the country at various times, and when they came to her place she frequently gave them corn and chicken rather than take the risk of offending them by refusing. However, they never did any harm with the possible exception of some petty pilfering. Mr. and Mrs. Drake have lived to see Butler county grow up, as it were, and while they have been contributing their part to the betterment of the community, they have also succeeded in a financial way, which should be a source of gratification to them, as an assurance of peace and plenty in their latter years.

**Mrs. August Breidenstein** is one of the pioneer women of Sycamore township, who experienced many of the hardships and uncertainties of pioneer life in Butler county. She is a native of Germany, and came to this county when quite young. She first located in Illinois, where she was married to August Breidenstein, January 1, 1871. Fourteen years later they came to Kansas, locating near Rosalia in Butler county. The first few years here were years of hardship and discouragements. One year their crops were entirely destroyed by hail, and they suffered loss from prairie fires and other misfortunes incident to life on the plains, and Mr. Breidenstein worked at anything that he could get to do in order to make a living for his family the first few years. Later success came, and at the time of his death in 1905, he was well-to-do. Mrs. Breidenstein now owns land in the Augusta oil field.

To Mr. and Mrs. Breidenstein were born the following children: Mrs. Rose Waltman, Jacksonville, Ill.; Lillian V.; Mrs. Gloria Hoy, Cassoday, Kans.; Mrs. Daisy Wright, Decatur, Ill.; Mrs. Ivan Westermouse, Burns, Kans.; Sule Edward and Charles William, who are deceased. Mrs. Breidenstein talks very interestingly of pioneer days, and is a great reader and well posted on events generally.

**Robert E. Templeton**, a large land owner of Sycamore township, and one of the most extensive cattlemen in Butler county, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Greenfield, March 17, 1874, and is a son of John B. and Catherine Templeton, natives of Ohio. The father was quite an extensive cattleman in Ohio, before coming to Kansas. In

1884, the family came to this State, first settling in Coffey county, near Burlington. They remained there but a short time, however, when they came to Butler county, where the father purchased the Blaker ranch in Sycamore township. This is one of the famous cattle ranches of the early days, in Butler county, and was formerly known as the Skinner ranch. It contains 800 acres, and is an ideal location for the cattle business. The father carried on an extensive business here during his life time, and raised and fed both cattle and sheep extensively. He died in 1909, and the mother now resides in El Dorado. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Melva Evans, Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Anna Wilbur, El Dorado, Kans.; J. C. Templeton, Lewisville, Ark., and R. E. Templeton, the subject of this sketch.

At the death of his father, Robert E. bought the home ranch and is continuing the cattle business there, and is meeting with well merited success. He is a cattleman from the ground up, having been reared in that line of business, he is familiar with the many angles of it, which would be strange and new to a tenderfoot. He is feeding about three hundred head of cattle, as this article is written, and he has about 225 acres devoted to general farming, exclusive of his pasture land where he raises feed for his cattle. He does his marketing most advantageously at the Kansas City stock yards.

Mr. Templeton was married September 7, 1904, to Miss Grace H. Young, a daughter of C. C. and Mary E. Young of De Graff, Kans. They have two children: Edgar A., born November 4, 1906, and John C., born September 8, 1909. Mr. Templeton takes a prominent part in the local political affairs of his township, and has served as trustee two terms, and has been a member of the school board ever since he was twenty-one years old. He is one of Butler county's representative citizens who have won a reputation for doing things.

**Rev. E. Cameron**, a Kansas and Butler county pioneer minister of the gospel, is a native of Ohio. He was born at Salem, October 10, 1838, and is a son of Josiah and Hannah Cameron. The father was born at Salem, Ohio, in 1804, his parents being pioneers of that State and of Scotch descent, tracing their ancestry to the nobility of that country. The mother was of English descent.

Rev. Cameron was married in 1865, to Miss Elizabeth Elliott, a daughter of John and Mariah Elliott, and to this union were born two children: Marvin, Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Adrian, of Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Cameron came to Kansas in 1878, and located in Chase county where he bought eighty acres of land. About eight years later he assisted in the organization of the Kansas Christian College at Lincoln, Kans., and was connected with that institution for twenty years, two years of which he was its president. In 1889 Mr. Cameron came to Butler county and while he has been engaged in general farming and stock raising, he has not given up his work in connection with churches and schools, all these years. His has been a busy life and his purpose and efforts to do good



have not been in vain. He has held pastorates at Matfield, Green and Pleasant Center, and also taught school at Oakdale, Kans.

His career in religious and literary work has been a busy one. After coming to Butler county, one of the first men with whom he became acquainted was Rev. Isaac Mooney of Towanda. Mr. Cameron attended the dedication of the First Christian Church at Towanda which was also the first one in the county, and he preached the dedicatory sermon. He has preached in a great many places in Butler county. He says when he did his first preaching in Butler county that it was in the real wild and woolly west. The young men came to church with their revolvers buckled on, and almost every man brought a dog with him, and the women brought their babies.

Mr. Cameron's first wife died in 1883 and in 1889, he was united in marriage with Mariah (Danby) Wilson, and two children were born to this union: Harry, who is engaged in teaching at Cassoday, Kans., and Ross, a student in college at Albany, Mo. Mr. Cameron has a broad acquaintance in Kansas and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

**J. G. Green**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Sycamore township, is a native of Illinois. He was born in McDonough county, October 8, 1858, and is a son of G. T. and Eliza Green. The Green family were very early settlers in Butler county, coming here in 1868. They settled on the Whitewater, near Towanda. Later, J. G. Green bought land in Sycamore township where he now owns several hundred acres and is one of the extensive cattlemen of Butler county.

Mr. Green was married in 1882, to Miss Elizabeth Fisk, a daughter of Erasmus and Ida (Amorette) Fisk, the former of Welsh descent and the latter of Irish ancestry. Mrs. Green's mother was a widow when she came to Kansas in 1881. They settled near Sycamore Springs. To Mr. and Mrs. Green have been born the following children: Mrs. Elsie Schroeder, Goddard, Kans.; Mrs. Mabel Kitzelman, Cassoday, Kans.; Ray, Anadarko, Okla.; Kittie, resides at home; Otis, De Graff, Kans.; Holt, John, Elizabeth and Hazel, all residing at home.

Mr. Green has quite a humorous vein in his nature, and tells with much amusement, an incident that happened in his father's family in the early days. His father had bought some very choice seed corn in the ear, which he valued very highly. One day while he was away some travelers came riding through the country, on horseback, and stopped at the Green home and endeavored to buy some feed for their horses. Mrs. Green explained that the only feed they had was seed corn, and they offered her fifty cents per ear for enough for one feed. She finally consented to sell them a small amount, for which they paid at that rate. Finally they offered her a dollar an ear for all the seed corn that she had. She was unable to stand the temptation of such an offer and let all the seed corn go, much to the disappointment of the father when he found it out.

Mr. Green is truly a pioneer of Butler county who has made good, and is deserving of no small amount of credit for the great reputation that Butler county has gained for being the greatest cattle producing county of the State of Kansas.

**S. S. Harsh**, of Sycamore township, has been a resident of Butler county, Kansas, since 1871. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1852, and is a son of Philip and Sarah Ann (Beucher) Harsh, and is one of the following children born to them: Mrs. Lavina Parsons, Cassoday, Kans.; L. Harsh, Milt Harsh and S. S. Harsh, all of Cassoday. The mother died when S. S. was about one year old, and the father married again. In 1871 the Harsh family came to Kansas and located in Sycamore township, Butler county, where the father bought 160 acres of land. Their first home in the new country was a crude two-room affair, but about as good as the average pioneer home of that time. Emporia was their nearest trading point of importance, and S. S. Harsh made the trip to that place frequently for supplies.

The Harsh family met with many disagreeable features and endured many privations and hardships in the early days. They passed through seasons of crop failures, fought prairie fires, and saw their crops devoured by grasshoppers. And, yet, with all these trials and vicissitudes of frontier life, the early settlers had many good times and much amusement. They had their parties, dances and literaries, and there was always something doing in the early days. Mr. Harsh says that he frequently drove fifteen or twenty miles to parties and took his best girl in a big farm wagon. He was the first young man in the neighborhood to own a buggy, and when he was not using it, someone else always was. It was in great demand among the young folks of the neighborhood. Mr. Harsh has made farming and stock raising his occupation and life study, and is one of the successful agriculturists of Butler county. He owns 600 acres of well improved land, and is rated among the prosperous men of Sycamore township.

Mr. Harsh was united in marriage, in 1883, to Miss Elizabeth Ann Bishop, a daughter of Elias and Nancy Jane Bishop, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Bishop were married in Indiana, and were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Harsh; Mrs. Emma Earnest, Wichita, Kans.; James Edwin, Wichita, Kans., and Mrs. Permelia Harsh, Cassoday, Kans. The Bishop family was among the early settlers in Butler county. They came here in 1867, and the father located on 160 acres of land near Chelsea, buying the relinquishment of the claim for \$400. The father built a two-room log house, and began farming and was successful from the start, which was very uncommon among the early pioneers. He raised good crops of corn, which he sold for \$1.50 per bushel, and their butter brought seventy-five cents per pound, and he had his farm paid for within two years after coming here. They had all the meat that they wanted, which consisted of prairie chickens, deer and

wild turkey, which included nearly all the native delicacies of the plains. The Bishop family were always well provided for, and lived as well in those pioneer days as the person of average means does today. Of course they experienced many inconveniences, and a feeling of uncertainty in a new and untried country, and were subjected to Indian scares and the like. It developed, though, that the Indian scares usually circulated by white men who, after scaring the settlers out of the community by the circulation of a false alarm, planned to rob the places of whatever was left behind of any value.

Mrs. Harsh is one of the very earliest school teachers of Butler county, and taught the first school in Sycamore township, which she conducted in J. W. Parson's house. Mr. and Mrs. Harsh have no children. They are among the pioneers of Butler county, and are deserving of more than ordinary recognition in the history of their county.

**Leonard Harsh**, one of the large land owners of Butler county, has been one of the most extensive cattlemen in this section of Kansas for years. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1845 and is a son of Philip and Sarah Ann (Beucher) Harsh, natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers in Ohio. The mother died in 1855, and the father was married twice after this.

Leonard Harsh is one of the early settlers of Butler county. He came to Kansas in 1871, and located in Sycamore township in 1873, when he bought a quarter section of land upon which is located the famous Sycamore Springs. He immediately engaged in farming, giving special attention to stock raising. Even in the early days, he raised and shipped large numbers of hogs and cattle. In addition to those that he himself raised, he became an extensive dealer, and bought cattle, not only in Butler county, but from other counties of Kansas, and even from Colorado and Texas. He has had his ups and downs in the cattle business, but in the main has made money, and is prosperous, and is today, one of the substantial men of affairs of Butler county. He has bought more land from time to time, as his business developed, and now owns 4,000 acres of land and is one of the largest stock raisers and dealers of Butler county. Many of his early day experiences in the cattle business are still fresh in his mind. On October 28, 1872, as he was driving a bunch of cattle, which he had bought in Marion county, a sleet storm came up, accompanied by a blizzard wind, and ten of his cattle were frozen to death. In 1871, his feed gave out during the winter, and over half his cattle died from starvation.

The old California trail passed through his farm and in the early days the old stage coach passed there regularly and great trains of government supplies were hauled over this trail to Fort Sill and other frontier posts. Mr. Harsh recalls, among the early settlers when he came to Sycamore township, G. W. Snively, Hewin, Alpers, Sloper, McCable, Sylvester Myers, Uncle John Teter, J. K. Skinner and John Cameron. Notwithstanding the grief and many hardships of the early days the

early settlers had lots of enjoyment at their dances and other social gatherings, frequently driving as far as fifteen miles to these affairs.

Mr. Harsh was married in 1884 to Miss Mame Bowman, a daughter of Valentine and Martha (Patterson) Bowman. Five children have been born to this union, as follows: Carl, Ross and Dwight, all living in Sycamore township; and Margery and Fern at home. The Harsh family is prominent in Butler county, and Mr. Harsh is one of our most successful citizens.

**Eli W. Campbell**, now deceased, was a Kansas pioneer and Civil war veteran and one of the early settlers of Sycamore township. Eli W. Campbell was a native of Ohio, born October 7, 1843. He was reared



ELI W. CAMPBELL

amidst the rural surroundings of the early days in Ohio, and received a common school education. He enlisted in the early part of the Civil war and served until the close of that great conflict, being in the army about four years.

After the close of the war, Mr. Campbell went West, and in 1869 he was united in marriage in Wisconsin to Miss Sarah E. Soper. She was born in Brooking, N. Y., in 1850, a daughter of Platt and Mary Ann Soper. In 1871 Mr. and Mrs. Campbell came to Kansas and settled in Florence. They lived in Marion county for eleven years, and in 1882 came to Butler county and located at Sycamore Springs. Here he engaged in the huckster business and had customers all the way

from El Dorado to Cottonwood Falls. While Mr. Campbell was out on the road with the wagon, serving customers, Mrs. Campbell attended to the store which they kept in Sycamore Springs. She was also postmistress at Sycamore Springs, which at that time was quite a settlement. While keeping store at Sycamore Springs, Mrs. Campbell sold supplies to hundreds of immigrants and others who passed over this California trail. Sycamore Springs was a favorite camping place for travelers on account of its far-famed good water. Indians also camped in this vicinity frequently, in the early days.

Mr. Campbell was in bad health for a number of years, and, in fact, he was never robust after coming out of the army, and eventually was

forced to retire many years before his death, which occurred March 11, 1913. Therefore, it will be seen that the chief burden of maintaining a home fell to Mrs. Campbell, even before her husband's death. She was equal to the occasion, however, and is one of the best business women in Butler county, and, through her own efforts, has accumulated considerable property. And while she has been successful in a business way, she has also been a potent factor in shaping the civic and social life of Sycamore township. She has a rich store of early day reminiscences which she relates in a most entertaining manner.

To Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were born the following children: Frank G., Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. May Cory, Sedan, Kans.; Mrs. Katie Diller, Cassoday, Kans.; Arthur P., Wichita, Kans., and Mrs. Edna Coffelt, Cassoday, Kans. The Campbell family is well known and highly respected.

**Joseph H. Myers** is a native son of Sycamore township, born of pioneer parents. Mr. Myers was born near Sycamore Springs, May 20, 1881, and is a son of Sylvester and Mary A. (Stuller) Myers, both natives of Carroll county, Ohio. They were the parents of nine children, three boys and six girls, only two of whom are now living: John, who resides at Pratt, Kans. and Joseph H., the subject of this sketch. The parents located in Sycamore township in 1870, where the father and George Snively bought 160 acres of land which was later traded to Leonard Harsh for eighty acres and is now a part of Joseph H. Myers' farm. The father found some timber along the creek with which to build the one-room, frame, 14x14-foot cabin, and hauled boards for it from Emporia.

The Myers family met with much discouragement during the first few years of life in the new country. However, one of their greatest misfortunes was the death of three of their children shortly after coming here. Life during the first years in Butler county was a serious struggle, the average settler had very little produce for sale, and there was practically no market for what he did have. The Myers family sold eggs in El Dorado for three cents per dozen, with which to buy groceries and the price of the latter was altogether out of proportion to the price which they received for eggs and other farm produce, and very much in accord with the present high cost of living or more so.

Game, both large and small, was plentiful when the Myers family came here. The father often had to drive herds of deer out of his corn field at night, and antelope were here by the thousands. The main herds of buffalo were a little farther west, but occasionally a few wandered across the plains in this vicinity. Mr. Myers saw two buffalo pass within a few rods of his cabin. Prairie chickens were so plentiful that when great flocks of them rose in the air, they sounded like thunder. Coyotes infested the plains in vast hordes and it was a difficult matter to save chickens from them. At times they would come in such large numbers that they would drive even the dog in terror to cover, under the house.

Sylvester Myers and wife experienced all the hardships incident to such life in a new country and are well entitled to go on record among the true and brave pioneers of Butler county. They have both passed to their eternal reward, and now peacefully sleep beneath the sod of the land which they helped to reclaim from the great American desert. The mother died August 17, 1884, and was survived a number of years by her husband, Sylvester Myers, who passed away December 28, 1906.

Sylvester Myers was one of the brave defenders of the Union, who in answer to President Lincoln's call enlisted August 15, 1861, in the Twenty-sixth battery, Ohio light artillery, and on January 1, 1863, he reenlisted in the same battery and was honorably discharged September 7, 1865, after having served four years and twenty-three days. He saw much hard service and among other engagements he participated in the battle of Alleghany, Va., the siege and surrender of Harper's Ferry, Va., September 12-15, 1862, and the siege of Vicksburg, Miss., May 18 to July 4, 1863.

Joseph H. Myers, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared on the home farm and received a good public school education, and has made farming and stock raising his principal occupation. After his father's death he bought the interest of the other heirs of the estate, and is now sole owner of the old homestead, which is well improved and a thoroughly modern farm.

Mr. Myers was married in 1904, to Miss Luella James, a daughter of Charles and Jane James. The James family were pioneer settlers of Sumner county, Kansas, having homesteaded near Caldwell at an early day in the settlement of that section. Mrs. Myers has one sister, Mrs. Alice Handle, who resides at Burt, Colo. Mrs. James, the mother, is deceased, and the father lives at Burt, Colo. To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Myers have been born four children, as follows: Edith A., Charles S., Hazel M. and Frank L. Mr. Myers is a progressive citizen and is well and favorably known in the community.

**J. H. Williamson**, of Union township, is a Kansas pioneer and veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Clinton county, Pennsylvania, October 22, 1839, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Williamson. The Williamson family are of Scotch descent, and Thomas Williamson was a native of New Jersey. In 1863, Thomas Williamson and his family migrated from Pennsylvania to Missouri, and three years later, came to Kansas, and settled in Cloud county, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of the following children: J. H., the subject of this sketch; H. H., Le Garnde, Ore.; John, Parker, Kans.; Frank, Golconda, Ariz.; Martin, Clyde, Kans., and Mrs. Ellen Bills, Choctaw, Okla.

On February 29, 1862, J. H. Williamson enlisted in Company G, Twelfth regiment, Pennsylvania cavalry, and participated in many important battles, among which were Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Winchester, besides being engaged in almost daily skir-

mishes, during his period of service. He was honorably discharged, July 20, 1865, after having served over three years and a half, during which time he saw a great deal of actual service. In 1884, Mr. Williams came to Butler county and bought a quarter section of school land in Union township. He built a small cabin on his place, and the first few years in this county were spent in a struggle for existence, against the adversities and uncertainties of life in a new country. Not only he, but his family endured the many hardships incident to pioneer life. His children had to walk three miles to attend school, and other conveniences of civilization were in proportion. However, Mr. Williamson and his family were not discouraged, and finally success came to them, and they are now one of the prosperous and substantial families of Butler county.

Mr. Williamson was married in February, 1869, to Miss Margaret Stewart, a native of Indiana, and the following children were born to this union: S. M., on the home place with his father; Mrs. Minnie Rouse, Latham, Kans., and George, also on the home place with his father. The mother of these children departed this life in 1904.

In addition to their farming and stock interests on the home place, S. M. is also interested in the manufacture of brooms. He conducts a broom factory on the home place, which has proven to be a very profitable industry. His power is supplied by a windmill, and during the winter season when he is not busy with his farm work he is engaged in the manufacture of brooms. He has found a ready market for the product of his small factory, and indications are that, in the near future, he will be compelled to increase his output, in order to supply the growing demand. His brooms have a wide reputation for their excellence of workmanship.

**Edward Prosser** was born in Butler county in January, 1873, and is a son of James and Susana Prosser, pioneers of Butler county, who came here in 1871. They were pioneer settlers of Union township, and two children of the family survive, as follows: Edward, the subject of this sketch, and L. L., of Latham, Kans. The father was a successful farmer and stockman, and died in November, 1914, and the mother now resides on the old home farm with Edward. She is an interesting pioneer woman, and talks entertainingly of early day events; she possesses a rich store of reminiscences. She says that her trip with her husband, from Emporia to Butler county, was her wedding tour, and was made across the plains in a lumber wagon. She recalls the first cyclone which she experienced in Butler county, and says that the next day after the storm everybody began to dig cyclone cellars. Mrs. Prosser bore the maiden name of Anderson, and is a descendant of a prominent family. After the Prosser family settled in Union township, Indians were quite plentiful in that section, and they frequently called at the Prosser home, begging for food, which was a common custom of the noble red man in the early days.

While Edward Prosser is comparatively a young man, he remembers many of the early day incidents of Butler county, which took place when he was a child. At a very early age, he began herding cattle and horses on the home place, and became accustomed to the saddle shortly after he had graduated from the cradle. He remembers when wire fences were introduced, and says the first one he ever saw consisted of just one wire. When he was a boy, they frequently had to go as far as eighteen miles for fire wood. The father bought an acre of timber land on Grouse creek, which was eighteen miles away, and all of the timber which he could not saw into lumber, he hauled home for fire wood. The frequency of early day prairie fires kept the trees killed, and wood was very scarce. The father first settled on 120 acres of land, upon which he built a small house, hauling the lumber from Emporia. He began farming and stock raising in a small way, and gradually prospered, buying more land as he was able, and at the time of his death, he owned 350 acres. Edward bought the home farm after his father's death, and now owns over 800 acres, and is one of the large cattlemen of Union township. He is a progressive business man, and knows the cattle business from beginning to end, having made a life study of that industry.

In April, 1899, Mr. Prosser was united in marriage to Rhoda Bogue, a daughter of L. L. Bogue of Beaumont, Kans. Mr. Bogue came to Kansas in 1878, first settling in Pottawatomie county. In 1891, he came to Butler county, and settled near Beaumont, and now lives at Greenwich. His wife is now deceased. The following children of the Bogue family are living: Mrs. Minnie Canfield, Clare, Mich., and Rhoda, wife of Edward Prosser, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Prosser received her education in the public schools, and walked three and one-half miles to attend school. That was a time when physical training was unnecessary in the schools, as the pupils got all necessary exercise walking to and from school. To Mr. and Mrs. Prosser, have been born two children: Edith and Wesley, both of whom are attending school. The Prossers are prominent in the community and rank among the leading pioneer families of the State.

**John Erickson**, owner and proprietor of "The Triangle Ranch," which is located in Union township, is one of the largest land owners, and most extensive stockmen in Butler county. Mr. Erickson was born in Gottenberg, Sweden, May 2, 1851. He received his education and grew to manhood in his native land. One of his ambitions, when he was a boy, was to get into the cattle business. He thought so much about that line of industry that at night he dreamed of it. In 1871 he immigrated to America and settled at Emporia, Kans. A few years after coming to this State, he bought 320 acres of land in Chase county. When he came to this country, he could not speak a word of English and he had only 50 cents in money. He came to Butler county and began to buy land, and engaged in the cattle business extensively. He now owns 7,000 acres, and



in addition of that vast tract, he rents 11,000 acres for pasture land. Mr. Erickson handles about 3,000 head of cattle annually, and is probably the largest individual cattle raiser and feeder in Butler county. He generally markets his stock in Kansas City and St. Joseph. His son, R. B. Erickson, is also an extensive cattleman and was in the West, engaged in that business for five years, and is now associated with his father on the "Triangle Ranch."

Mr. Erickson was married in 1883, to Miss Josephine Davis, a daughter of Joseph and Nancy Davis of Indiana. The Davis family came to Butler county in 1876 in a prairie schooner, and settled near Douglass, where the father bought 160 acres of land and engaged in farming. There were seven children in the Davis family, as follows: Mrs. Mary VanPearce, Latham, Kans.; Mrs. Harriet Stocks, Clinton, Okla.; Reed R. Davis, Grandfield, Okla.; Mrs. Cynthia Catts, La Fayette, Ind.; Josephine, wife of John Erickson, the subject of this sketch; John Davis, Edmond, Okla.; and Joseph A. Davis, McPherson, Kans.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were born two children: R. B. who is associated in the cattle business with his father, and John G., who is now deceased. He was a capable young man, and seemed to have before him a brilliant career, and was the pride of his parents. He died March 28, 1913, in the fullness of his manhood.

**C. G. Amlong**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Hickory township is a native of Ohio. He was born in Youngstown in 1854, and is a son of James and Mary Amlong, natives of Pennsylvania. The family came to Kansas and located in Butler county in 1886. C. G. bought 160 acres of land in Hickory township. The parents spent the remainder of their lives in Kansas. The father was a Presbyterian minister and preached his first sermon at Hickory Center in the school house. He died in 1905, and his wife passed away in 1910. They were the parents of four children, as follows: C. G., the subject of this sketch; L. W., Braid-entown, Fla.; Mrs. Myrtes Young, Los Angeles, Cal.; and Mrs. Wilda Thorp, Winfield, Kans.

C. G. Amlong has made farming the chief occupation of his life, and in recent years has met with well merited success. When he began farming on the home place in Hickory township, the land was unbroken. He lived in a two-roomed house at first and had a hard struggle against adverse conditions. He worked for fifty cents per day and stacked grain for a dollar per day. During the first few years crop conditions were bad and he did not produce enough from his farm to live on, and feed his horses and cattle, but the family managed to get along from the little income from butter, eggs and chickens and with the money that he earned at whatever work he could find to do. Finally prosperity came and for a number of years he has been one of the well-to-do men of Butler county. He raises cattle extensively, as well as following general farming.

Mr. Amlong was united in marriage in 1875, to Miss Idelia Scroggy, a daughter of Israel and Martha Scroggy, of Iowa. The father was a

native of New Jersey and the mother of Illinois, and the latter was a relative of the late General Bragg, of Civil war fame. Mrs. Amlong has three brothers living, as follows: Frank Scroggy, Waterloo, Iowa; Butler Scroggy, Wichita, Kans., and Mark Scroggy, Waterloo, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Amlong have been born the following children: Mrs. Rose Bereman, Leavenworth, Kans.; Mrs. Martha Hall, Rosalia, Kans.; Mrs. Oral McQuirk, Zeal, S. D., and Harry, Latham, Kans. The girls have all been school teachers and the son is at home, associated with his father in the conduct of the home place.

Mr. Amlong is a Republican and for a number of years was active in the councils of that party, and seldom missed attending a convention. He was never too busy to get on his horse and "round up the boys" at election time. His home is known far and wide as one of the hospitable places of Butler county, and is not only a home for preachers but for politicians, as well, and one is just as welcome as the other.

**William A. Clark**, a successful farmer and stockman of Bloomington township, is a Butler county pioneer and has been a resident of Kansas for forty-five years. He is a native of England, and was born in 1842, a son of William and Mary Clark. He received his education in his native land, and in his youth, learned the carpenter trade. In 1864, he emigrated from his native land to Canada. Two years later, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent about a year. He then went to Chicago where he worked at his trade until 1871, when he came to Kansas and located on a ranch in Sumner county. This was during the very early pioneer days, in the settlement of that section of the State, and Mr. Clark experienced much of real pioneer life.

The settlers in Sumner county had to haul all their supplies from Emporia at that time and the trip required six days. Mr. Clark made this trip several times, and it was usually a dangerous, as well as a disagreeable journey. The country was infested by bad men, and not overly friendly Indians; and the winter seasons were susceptible to the treacherous blizzards of the early days. Mr. Clark being a carpenter says that on more than one occasion, he has made coffins for men who were killed by accident or otherwise along this trail. On one occasion a band of about a thousand Indians camped two miles from the freighters' camp, Mr. Clark being one of the freighters. He says they were suspicious of the Indians, and kept their horses saddled all night, ready for a hasty retreat if they were attacked by the Indians, but it seems they were not molested.

In 1880, Mr. Clark came to Butler county, and bought 120 acres of land in Bloomington township, where he engaged in farming and stock raising. He has added to his original purchase, and now owns 453 acres of one of the best improved farms in the county. He is a successful stockman and is an extensive feeder, and is well known in Butler county as a breeder. His place is very advantageously situated for the stock business, the Little Walnut river courses through his farm, and his land is

not only mostly bottom land, but the stream affords excellent water facilities. He has over one hundred acres of alfalfa, and usually raises about the same number of acres of corn.

Mr. Clark was united in marriage in 1880, to Miss Margaret Gunn, a daughter of George and Isabel Gunn. Mrs. Clark is one of a family of four children, the others being as follows: Donald, Commanche, Okla.; William, Tonkawa, Okla.; and Mrs. Ella Keena, Mulvane, Kans. To Mr. and Mrs. Clark have been born the following children: William, Augusta, Kans.; Donald, Ringwood, Okla.; George, Augusta, Kans.; Mary B., and Charles, at home. The Clark family is prominent in the community where they reside, and among the representative families of Butler county.

**Sidney Blakeman**, of Leon, a prominent Butler county farmer and stockman, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Cook county in 1857. When he was a child his parents both died, and he was reared by W. H. Riggs of McLean county, Illinois. With the exception of an uncle who resides in Chicago, Mr. Blakeman has no known relatives who bear his name. When he was eighteen years old, he came to Kansas and located on 160 acres of government land in Elk county and three years later, or in 1878, he went to Wichita to the government land office and proved up on his claim, receiving his title. He immediately began pasturing cattle for numerous parties for which he charged a dollar per head for the season. In 1879, he pastured about 1,100 head of cattle. When he first located in Elk county he had many real pioneer experiences. His nearest neighbor was four miles away and he was fifteen miles from Howard City, which was his postoffice and trading point. His capital was limited and his supplies for the season were bought on credit, to be paid for when he collected from his pasture patrons. The first \$10 which he received from his enterprise was from Aaron Clumb who sold ten head of steers and paid a dollar per head for their pasturage. Mr. Blakeman says he thought more of that \$10 than of any money he ever saw, and that he put it in the family bible and occasionally would take a peep at it to see if it was still there. On October 10, 1879, he broke up the herd, the men for whom he was pasturing cattle came on that day and all paid for their pasturing, and at the close of the day Mr. Blakeman had \$1,000. He invested this in 500 head of sheep. This proved a profitable investment, and he was very successful in his sheep venture, with the exception that he lost a great many from the ravages of wolves, and in 1883, he came to Butler county and the following year sold his sheep and engaged again in the cattle business. He has, perhaps, pastured more cattle than any other man in Butler county since that time. In contrast to the early days it might be stated that instead of receiving \$1 per head for the season he now receives \$8, and has pastured as many as 1,900 head in one season. He owns 920 acres of land and operates several hundred acres which he rents. He has pastured cattle from Texas, Colorado and Utah. He and his son, on one occasion, went to Utah and loaded

1,400 head of cattle and shipped them to Pontiac and pastured them that season for \$6 per head. This was in 1910, and in 1911 he pastured 940 head of cattle from Old Mexico.

Mr. Blakeman was married in 1878 to Miss Clara S. Peabody, a native of Illinois and three children were born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Olive Cline, Danville, Ill.; Guy, Leon, Kans.; and Roy, Danville, Ill. The mother of these children died May 3, 1915.

Mr. Blakeman made two trips to Kansas in the early days. The first time he rode on horseback from Saybrooke, Ill., and the second time, he drove a team of mules to a sleigh. He is one of the pioneers who has seen much development since coming here, and through industry and good business management, has succeeded to a remarkable degree, and is one of Butler county's substantial men of affairs.

**W. W. Clark**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Rosalia township, is a Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer. Mr. Clark was born in London, England, September, 1846, and is a son of William and Dorothy Clark. The family came to America when W. W. was two years of age, and located in Lee county, Iowa. The father was a carpenter and worked at his trade there and in 1850 the family went to Illinois. Here W. W. Clark enlisted, February 29, 1864, and was mustered into the United States service as a member of Company D, Fifty-ninth regiment, Illinois infantry. He served with his regiment until the close of the war, and took part in a number of important battles and a great many skirmishes. After the surrender of Lee, he served in Texas until his discharge in 1866.

After returning from the army Mr. Clark located in Missouri where he remained until 1872, when he came to Butler county, Kansas, and homesteaded 160 acres in Rosalia township. He began life in Butler county under the adverse conditions of the average pioneer. He hauled lumber for his first home from Humboldt and was compelled to go fifteen miles for his fuel. The country was wild and unbroken when he came here, and game of all kinds was plentiful. He has seen herds of antelope and deer feeding in his wheat field. In the early days, he has fought prairie fires all night and day, without time to get food. When he settled on his claim here, he was practically without funds, fifty cents being all the money that he possessed. He worked for settlers in the neighborhood, sometimes over in Greenwood county, and took his pay in meal and other supplies, and between times would break a little prairie for himself. The grasshoppers of 1874 destroyed all his crop except a little patch of corn which he saved by setting fire to some dead prairie grass on the windward side of the corn and smoked the grasshoppers out of the corn field. That fall Mrs. Clark returned to eastern Kansas, and spent the winter with her parents, near the old Shawnee Mission in Johnson county. Mr. Clark worked in Kansas City that winter, hauling ice and saved quite a bit of money and in the following spring, returned to Butler county with his family in a prairie schooner, and was five days en route. The

adversity of the first few years in Kansas soon became a matter of memory, and Mr. Clark is now one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of Butler county.

Mr. Clark was united in marriage May 10, 1872, to Miss Frances Ekenfelts, a daughter of Andrew and Sophrona Ekenfelts. Her parents were of German descent and died in Texas. They were the parents of the following children: Theodore; Frank; Joseph; and Mrs. Caroline Harnick, all residing in Dallas, Tex.; and Francis, the wife of Mr. Clark, who is the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. Clark have been born the following children: C. S., a Methodist minister, Kildare, Okla.; Mrs. Mary A. Owens, El Dorado, Kans.; Edward, Marshall, Okla.; George, a minister of the Christian church, Randall, Kans.; Mrs. Viola McKill, Rosalia, Kans.; Lester, Rosalia, Kans.; Chesley, Springfield, Mo.; Mrs. Nellie Borger, Rosalia, Kans.; Harry, Rosalia, and Tillie May, Rosalia. The Clarks are well known and highly respected and rank among the leading citizens of Butler county.

**J. H. Thomas**, a leading citizen of Hickory township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Morgan county in 1848, and is a son of James and Margaret Thomas. The Thomas family came from Maryland, and are descendants of Irish ancestors. The parents spent their lives in Ohio, and in 1885, J. H. Thomas came to Kansas. He learned the carpenter's trade in early life, which has been his chief occupation. For a number of years, he has been in the employ of the railroad company, as carpenter, and in 1906, he bought 160 acres of land in Hickory township, which is operated by his sons while he is engaged in working at his trade.

Mr. Thomas was married, in 1875, to Miss Tobitha Johnson, a native of Ohio, and four children were born to this union, as follows: Charles M., who was accidentally killed on the road; Harley A., was drowned at Beaumont; Edwin and Edgar, twins. Edgar is in Topeka, employed in the general office of the Santa Fe Railroad Company, and Edwin, is employed by the same company in Kansas City. Ten years after her marriage, Mrs. Thomas died, and in 1889, Mr. Thomas was united in marriage with Miss Henrietta Smith, and they have two children, as follows: Mrs. Lulu M. Ohsner, Latham, Kans., and Clyde, Latham.

Since coming to Butler county, Mr. Thomas has taken an active part in local affairs, and has always co-operated with every movement for the betterment and upbuilding of the community. He has always stood for a square deal, and is regarded by those who know him best as an exemplary citizen. By his thrift and industry, he has accumulated a competence and can, if he so desires, spend his remaining days in ease and comfort. He has served as treasurer of Hickory township one term and refused to accept re-election to the office. He is one of the substantial citizens of Hickory township whose influence is for the better things of life.

**Mrs. M. E. Correll**, of Rosalia township, is a typical representative of that noble band of pioneer women who played their parts so bravely in the early settlement of the then wilds of Butler county. She is a native of Kentucky, born in 1849, a daughter of William and Martha A. Woods, natives of Kentucky, and of Scotch and English descent. Mrs. Correll came to Butler county with her husband and parents in 1869, and they homesteaded 160 acres in Rosalia township. She was married in 1864 to James Correll, and the following children were born to this union: Mrs. Cordelia McGinley, Rosalia, Kans.; William, Loreda, Tex.; Charles, Rosalia, Kans., and Mrs. Myrtle Hurlbert, Hutchinson, Kans.

Mr. Correll was a successful farmer and stockman, and after passing through the early days of frontier vicissitudes and discouragements, he became one of the prosperous citizens of Butler county, and at his death, left a competence for those dependent upon him. He was a musician by natural instinct, and during the pioneer days, played the violin for the numerous dances that were held in the neighborhood in those days. Later he became a member of the Baptist church, and was by nature, a deeply religious man. He was a kind father and husband, and a good neighbor. He believed in the golden rule and appealed to the good that was in other men. He was patient and courageous, and, during the most trying times of the early days of discouragement, he was happy and looked on the sunny side of life. He will long be remembered as one of the pioneers of Butler county and a man of real worth. After her husband's death, Mrs. Correll sold the old homestead, and purchased a home in Rosalia, where she now resides, her granddaughter, Clara Correll, living with her. Her daughter, Mrs. Cordelia McGinley, owns the old homestead, which is located three and a half miles south of Rosalia.

**D. R. Blankinship**, an extensive land owner and stockman of Rosalia township, is one of the early settlers of Butler county. Mr. Blankinship was born in Vermillion county, Illinois, February 24, 1844. He is a son of William C. and Almeda Blankinship, natives of North Carolina who removed from that State to Illinois at a very early day. D. R. Blankinship came to Kansas in 1869, and the following year homesteaded a quarter section of land in Rosalia township, filing on it May 10, 1870. He built a log house on his claim, 14x16 feet, using in its construction all the logs that he could find. Had he been able to find more logs, no doubt he would have built a larger house. His parents located in Rosalia township in 1870 and the father homesteaded 160 acres adjoining the claim of D. R.

When D. R. Blankinship came here, he was favorably impressed with the country, but his capital was limited and during the first few years progress was slow. He had a team of horses and shortly after coming here one of them died. He had no money to replace his horse, so he sold the other one, or rather traded it, taking a pig and a cow in

part payment. During his first year or two here he worked out for other settlers part of the time, taking his pay in provisions. He started in the cattle business by buying calves. He next traded some of his calves for a team of oxen, but fate seemed to pursue his motor power, and one of his oxen was killed by lightning and, resorting to his usual remedy for a broken team he sold the other one the next day. Mr. Blankinship did the first plowing that was done in the township and also built the second house. In February, 1870, he sowed wheat and oats on the burnt prairie and turned it under. From this he reaped eleven bushels of wheat and twenty-five bushels of oats of good quality, to the acre. When the stage line was established from Ft. Scott to Wichita the stage station was established at Mr. Blankinship's place. They paid only after three months' service. A man by the name of Tom Taylor was carrying the mail and just before pay day Taylor skipped the country and failed to pay Mr. Blankinship for taking care of the horses for the quarter. He had his ups and downs in the early days but eventually he began to prosper and buy more land from time to time, until he has become one of the large land owners of Butler county, owning over 4,300 acres. He had been here just forty-three years, when he owned the above stated amount of land which is an accumulation of 100 acres for every year that he has lived in Butler county, which is not so bad. Mr. Blankinship has followed general farming as well as stock raising, and has been very successful in his undertaking. He now has most of his land rented, and is taking life easier than he did, during the strenuous pioneer days in this county.

Mr. Blankinship was married in 1864, to Miss Hannah A. Brown, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of Isaac Brown. Seven children have been born to this union, four of whom are living, as follows: Martin A., Charles A., LeRoy A., and A. Z., all residing in Rosalia township. During all the uncertain days of early Butler county, Mr. Blankinship managed to weather whatever storm or stress came. In 1874, he was made distributor of supplies sent to aid the settlers after the grasshopper devastation. He has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs and for good government of his county and State, but has never aspired to be a politician. He was constable of his township in 1872, and has served for a number of terms on the school board, always taking a deep interest in educational matters. Mr. Blankinship is a man who is held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and his many friends and acquaintances throughout Butler county. He is one of Butler county's substantial pioneer citizens, and is always ready and willing to further the best interests of his community.

**Miss May Gaskill**, the present efficient postmistress of Potwin, Kans., is a representative of that type of twentieth century women who are contributing their share to the efficiency of the business world. Miss Gaskill is a native of Pike county, Illinois, and a daughter of Samuel and Alice (Byram) Gaskill, both natives of Illinois. Samuel Gaskill was a son of John and Susanna Gaskill. He came to Kansas in

the spring of 1887, and first located in Hamilton county, where he homesteaded land. Two years later, the family removed to Butler county, and settled in Spring township, where they remained about two years, when they located near Potwin, in Plum Grove township. Here they lived on a farm about eight years. The mother died in 1900. The father later removed to Augusta, and is now living retired in El Dorado.

Miss Gaskill is one of a family of four children, as follows: Harvey A., resides at Amber, Okla.; Maggie, married R. E. Joseph, El Dorado, Kans.; Nettie, married E. E. McDowell, Verden, Okla., and May, the subject of this sketch. Miss Gaskill was educated in the public schools and worked at the printer's trade in the office of the "Augusta Journal," and later she worked in the office of the "El Dorado Advocate." In 1908 she returned to Potwin and engaged in the millinery business, and, in the meantime, had served as assistant in the postoffice at different times, when C. V. Cain was postmaster. In 1913 she passed the civil service examination, and, on April 4 of that year, was appointed postmistress, and has conducted the affairs of that office in a manner that reflects great credit upon herself, and to the unqualified satisfaction of the many patrons of the Potwin postoffice. Miss Gaskill is a Democrat, and belongs to the Rebekah lodge, of which she is noble grand. She is one of Butler county's representative women.

**Charles Coppins**, a Butler county pioneer, now deceased, was born near Canterbury, England, September 7, 1829. He was a son of Thomas and Sarah Coppins, also natives of England, where they were farmers. The Coppins family immigrated to America in the fifties and settled near the town of Conesus, Genesee county, New York. The mother died in New York and the family migrated to Michigan a short time after her death and located near Hudson where the father spent the remainder of his life.

Charles Coppins was united in marriage at Mt. Morris, N. Y., June 4, 1859, to Miss Elizabeth Ather. She was born June 29, 1830, at Windy Nook, a small village in the northern part of England. She is a daughter of William and Jane (Somersides) Ather, both natives of England, and they were born near Durham, where the father was a quarryman in early life. Elizabeth Ather came to America in 1854, locating near Connors Lake, New York, where she met her future husband, Mr. Coppins. In 1866, they removed to Michigan, where they were engaged in farming until 1871, when they came to Butler county, Kansas, and homesteaded a claim in Plum Grove township, where Mrs. Coppins still resides. Charles Coppins, after having passed through the hard experiences of the early years in Butler county, became a successful and prosperous farmer. He was industrious and a valued citizen, honesty being the dominant trait of his character. He died in March, 1913. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was a life long Republican. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Cop-



pins were born the following children: H. A., resides at Arnold, Kans.; Isadora, married J. M. Worley, Wichita, Kans.

Mrs. Coppins is a representative of the noble pioneer women of Kansas. In the early days it fell to her lot to be of more than ordinary service to the early settlers of Butler county. When a young woman she lived with the family of a physician in New York State for a number of years, and during that time had an opportunity to familiarize herself with the elements of medicine; and under the instructions of the doctor she became a very competent trained nurse, and acted in that capacity in connection with his professional work. When she came to Kansas, physicians were few, often from twenty to fifty miles away, and Mrs. Coppins was frequently called upon to attend the sick, and her presence was a Godsend in many instances. She has responded to calls at all times of day and night, and in all kinds of weather. She says settlers would frequently come for her with lumber wagons, and that riding over the trails was rough, but that was the order of the day. She built up a wide reputation in her work as a nurse and has frequently been called to El Dorado and even to Kansas City.

Mrs. Coppins deserves great credit for the part that she took in the early days in Butler county. She relates many incidents of the pioneer days, and the hardships that confronted the early settlers on the plains. On one occasion while returning from a visit to a sick neighbor, she was overcome by the cold, but fortunately had almost reached home before she became exhausted and her husband discovered her just in time to save her life, as she had already reached the state of stupor which immediately precedes death by freezing. She is one of the interesting old ladies of Kansas who has performed her part nobly and well in the development of Butler county.

**Capt. Mike Guinty.**—The story of Captain Guinty, is the story of a boy who was left an orphan among strangers in a strange land at a tender age, and by his industry and personality, made his own way in the world from that time, and has always been a citizen of real worth and has reached a position of wealth and affluence. His record as a soldier is also characteristic of the man. Enlisting as a private in the ranks, his ability was soon recognized and he gradually rose, step by step, until he became captain of his company.

Captain Guinty was born in Ireland March 19, 1842, and is a son of Patrick and Mary (Hendley) Guinty, natives of Ireland. They left their native land and immigrated to America when the subject of this sketch was a child. The family remained in Vermont for a time, when they moved to La Salle, Ill., where the parents both died, within a few months, from cholera which swept over that section of the country in the early forties. Mike Guinty remained in the vicinity of La Salle until he was eleven years old when he went to Chicago. His first job was a driver on the canal, and while thus engaged he became acquainted with a man named Jerry Dean, of Chicago, who owned and operated a number of

canal boats. Mr. Dean became attached to the boy and took him to his home, and young Guinty attended school for two or three years in Chicago, making his home with Mr. Dean. At about the age of fourteen he left the Dean home and became a driver on the canal again at \$15 per month. He says driving on the canal was not a bad place for a boy who was compelled to earn his own living. He next went to Rock Island, Ill. Times were very hard in that section then and work was scarce at even 75 cents per day.

Young Guinty remained in Rock Island and that vicinity until the Civil war broke out, and on July 15, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Twelfth regiment, Illinois infantry. His regiment was under command of Col. John McCarther, of Chicago, at first. They were immediately sent to Paducah, Ky., under Gen. C. F. Smith, and joined Grant at Fort Donelson, remaining under his command until Grant was transferred to the Army of the Potomac and made commander-in-chief. Captain Guinty was with Sherman on the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea, and immediately after the fall of Atlanta he was made second lieutenant. About that time, the sixteenth army corps, to which he belonged, was consolidated with the fifteenth and placed under the command of General Logan. September 7, 1863 Mr. Guinty was commissioned first lieutenant, and the following summer was commissioned captain, and took command of his company in that capacity before he was twenty-one years old. After participating in the grand review at Washington, he was mustered out of service and returned to Illinois.

A few years after the war he went to Iowa and was engaged in farming there until 1871, when he came to Kansas and settled on a claim in Butler county, locating on the northwest quarter of section 14, Fairmount township. He had saved quite a little money and came to Kansas with considerably more capital than the average settler had in those days. When he came he was accompanied by a man named Henry Robison. They came as far as Emporia by rail and they and another man drove southwest from Emporia to look the country over, with a view of locating, and on the entire trip from Peabody to where Wichita now stands they saw only one human habitation and that was a dugout. Wichita at that time had not attained the dignity of being called a town. It was a rough little frontier settlement of about 150 people, and this population was mostly made up of gamblers and a few wandering cowboys and frontiersmen. After locating his claim in Butler county, Captain Guinty returned to Iowa, and shortly afterwards came back to Butler county, which has since been his home. He started in the cattle business in a small way, first buying a herd of cows and engaged in the dairy business, and raised calves for a few years. He then engaged in the stock raising business and abandoned the dairy and fed for the market, usually handling from 200 to 500 a year. He bought land as opportunities presented, and now owns 960 acres of some of the best land in Butler county.

Captain Guinty was married in January, 1866, to Miss Sophia S.

Wood, a daughter of W. A. and Sophia (Smith) Wood, natives of Cortland county, New York, who settled in Illinois at a very early date, the father removing to that State with his parents in 1835, when he was three years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Guinty have been born the following children: H. A.; Bessie E., married John Speir, Marion county; W. H.; Grace, married J. V. Leydig; Charles S.; Lena B. deceased; Hattie E., married Elmer D. Lambert, all of whom are prosperous and reside in Butler county, except Bessie E., who resides in Marion.

Captain Guinty has always taken an active interest in political affairs and has served as county commissioner of Butler county, and in the exercise of the duties of that office, the business of the county was given the same careful attention and efficient management that Captain Guinty gives his private business. Captain Guinty has many friends throughout Butler and adjoining counties, friends who hold him in the highest esteem.

**Joseph King**, of Plum Grove township, is one of the most extensive farmers and stockmen of Butler county. He belongs to that type of men who have built up a reputation for Butler county, as one of the prosperous and progressive counties of the great State of Kansas. He came to Butler county in the spring of 1886, with approximately \$2,500 in cash, which he invested in a quarter section of land, and stocked it with a few head of cattle. He went in debt considerably, and met with more or less adversity, during the first year or two in Butler county; and in 1888, two years after coming here, he was \$1,500 worse off than nothing. However, he was not discouraged, but continued to buy land. In 1889, he raised a good crop, but cattle and grain scarcely brought any price. Cows were worth only \$15 a head, and two-year-old steers sold for \$12 per head; and during that year he raised 14,000 bushels of corn. He has paid as high as eighteen per cent. interest on money which he borrowed. He now owns 2,400 acres of some of Butler county's best land, and his home is on the first quarter section that he purchased in Plum Grove township.

Joseph King was born in Springfield, Ohio, April 4, 1854, and is a son of William and Nancy (Hatfield) King, natives of Ohio and both descendants of old American families. The father was a school teacher in early life. In 1854, the King family removed to Tazewell county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming and teaching school, and the parents spent their lives there. In his youth, Mr. King's opportunities to obtain an education were limited. However, he succeeded in picking up the rudiments of an English education, but most of his time was devoted to the farm and stock.

Mr. King was married, April 1, 1879, to Miss Mary Roberts, a native of Missouri, who was reared and educated in Illinois. She is a daughter of Ellis and Nancy Jane (Musick) Roberts. To Mr. and Mrs. King have been born the following children: Clarence, Merton, Melvin, and Paul, all of whom are associated with their father on the ranch

where they have all worked in harmony to one common end, which, no doubt, is one of the strong elements of success which has crowned their efforts. The King ranch is famous for its high grade horses and cattle. They usually have a large herd of shorthorn cattle and a great many Percheron horses are raised here.

When Mr. King was forty-two years old, he became affiliated with the Christian Church of Potwin. He is a man of deep, religious conviction and carries his Christianity into his daily life. He is a liberal supporter of the church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Masons, Knights of Pythias, Royal Neighbors, Modern Woodmen of America, Rebekahs and politically is a Republican, although inclined to be independent.

**C. G. Epperson**, a pioneer merchant of Walnut township, who now conducts the leading mercantile establishment and is also postmaster at Gordon, is a native of Tennessee. He was born in Hamilton county in



C. G. EPPERSON

1854, and is a son of John R. and Emma (Good) Epperson, natives of Virginia. They were the parents of five children, only two of whom are now living: C. G., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Caldona Woodan, Georgetown, Tenn.

C. G. Epperson was reared to manhood in his native State, and received a good public school education in the schools of Georgetown, Tenn. He remained at home with his parents until 1880, when he went to Macon county, Illinois. Here he followed farming three or four years, when he came to Kansas, locating in Walnut township, Butler county. He was engaged in farming about four years and was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad Company about a year. He then

began his mercantile career as a clerk in the store of Mr. Farrow. Later he clerked for Lou Myers. While in the employ of Mr. Myers he was appointed postmaster of Gordon by President Cleveland, and served in that capacity for three years. He was then in the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad Company again for one year, when he embarked in the mercantile business for himself, opening a general store at Gordon, Kans. His first store building was an unpretentious affair, 12x20 feet, and he

began with a small stock of goods, only about \$90 worth. He paid cash for his goods, and at first bought in small quantities, and often carried his goods from Augusta to his place of business on a bicycle.

His business gradually developed, and in a short time wholesale houses were anxious for his patronage and willing to ship his goods when they discovered that his business was being conducted along the lines of sound business principles. By his honest methods and square dealing, he has built up a large patronage and won the confidence of the public and is one of the live and progressive merchants of Butler county. In 1912, Mr. Epperson was appointed postmaster of Gordon by President Taft, and is still serving in that capacity.

Mr. Epperson was united in marriage in 1889 with Miss Ida Cooley, of Rose Hill. She died two years after her marriage, and in 1904, Mr. Epperson was married to Nora Shreve, of Augusta. Notwithstanding his busy mercantile career, Mr. Epperson finds time to do considerable writing, for which he possesses a natural aptitude. He is local correspondent for a number of newspapers and has produced much interesting and well written matter, and he has also written considerable poetry of merit. In 1912 he visited his old Tennessee home, and some of the letters which he wrote to the Butler county newspapers at that time concerning his travels and Tennessee life and conditions are surely entitled to a place among the journalistic classics of Butler county.

**James Van Tuyl**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Clifford township, is a representative Butler county pioneer. Mr. Van Tuyl was born in Green county, Illinois, February 16, 1838, and is a son of Jonathan and Jane (Pennington) Van Tuyl. The mother was a native of Newark, N. J., and of English descent, and Jonathan Van Tuyl, the father, was born near the city of New York, and was of Holland ancestry, the family probably settling in New York when that section was colonized by Hollanders. Jonathan Van Tuyl was a plasterer and brick and stone mason, learning his trade in New York. He came West at an early day, locating in Green county, Illinois, near Whitehall, remaining there only six months when he went to Macoupen county, Illinois. He bought land there, and after remaining a few years, went to Montgomery county, Illinois, where he bought a half section of land.

James Van Tuyl, the eldest son, remained at home, and worked on the farm, and also learned the plastering trade with his father. His early educational advantages were fair. In 1868, he was united in marriage with Penina J. McElroy, a native of Washington county, Indiana, born September 12, 1849. She was a daughter of Nimrod and Elizabeth (Hubby) McElroy. The mother was a native of Indiana and of North Carolina parentage, of Holland ancestry. Nimrod McElroy was born in Lee county, West Virginia, and was a son of George and Mary (Gilstrap) McElroy of Scotch-Irish descent. After their marriage, James Van Tuyl and his wife lived on a farm in Montgomery county, Illinois,

for four years, and, in September, 1872, they took their belongings, and with four horses and a prairie schooner, came to Kansas, the trip requiring four weeks. They remained in Harvey county the first winter they spent in this State, four miles north and eight miles west of Newton, and the next spring, went fourteen miles north of Newton, and bought a relinquishment on a claim and proved up on a quarter section of land, and afterward got another quarter section through a timber claim. In 1883, they sold their Marion county property and came to Butler county, buying a quarter section in Clifford township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Van Tuyl have been born the following children: Cora, wife of Joel Corfman, California; James F., North Dakota; William E., New Mexico; Myra E., married C. R. Doty, Orville, Wash.; O. L., resides at home; Maggie, at home; Guy W., Butler county; Ralph L., Peabody, and Nina, wife of Aaron C. Thomas, Whitewater. Mr. Van Tuyl is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Butler county, and is one of the men who had the judgment to foresee the future possibilities of this section of Kansas, and he is entitled to his full share of credit for its development. He has made a study of the cattle business and understands it, and a large measure of his success is due to the fact that he made a careful study of his business, and understands the minor details, as well as the general plans. He is one of the extensive alfalfa raisers of the county, usually producing about fifty acres of alfalfa. There have been many changes since the Van Tuyl family came to Kansas, and they have kept well abreast of the progress. One of the interesting relics of the early days to be found on the Van Tuyl place, is the old wagon with which they made the trip from Illinois to Kansas in 1872. It was second hand when Mr. Van Tuyl bought it in Illinois, but was an unusually substantial wagon, having been made especially for hauling freight from Hillsboro, Ill., to St. Louis, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Van Tuyl are members of the Christian church, and Mr. Van Tuyl is a Democrat. He is a close student of current events, being an extensive reader, and takes a deep interest in political affairs. He is recognized as one of the best posted men in Butler county.

**Peder Paulson**, a prominent farmer and Butler county pioneer is one of the large land owners of this county, and it may be said that all of his vast acres have been accumulated by his own industry and unaided efforts. Mr. Paulson was born near the city of Alborg, in the southern part of Denmark, October 4, 1849, and is a son of Paul and Anna (Neshbey) Anderson. According to the Danish custom Peder Paulson was named Paulson, that being the Christian name and a part of the surname of his father.

In 1867, when Peder Paulson was seventeen years old, he immigrated to America with his father, and after landing here went directly from New York to Chicago. Here young Paulson obtained employment, working on the streets. At that time he was unable to speak a word of

English, and he met a number of his countrymen who had been in this country for ten or twelve years, who understood the English language no better than he. This condition did not appeal to him, as he realized that to make progress in this country it was necessary to learn the language. Accordingly, he left Chicago and went to Wilmington, Ill., and got employment from a man who spoke English, working for him about a year at \$15 per month. During that time he applied himself to the study of English in conversation, as well as making use of school books, until at the end of the year he was able to speak English quite well.

He then secured another position at an advanced salary and in 1870, he and his brother came to Kansas, coming by rail as far as Emporia, and taking the stage from there to El Dorado. He came here for the purpose of getting some land, and after working a short time on a hay farm, he homesteaded a quarter section in Towanda township which he owns. He engaged in farming and stock raising, and as prosperity came he bought more land from time to time, and now owns 2,000 acres and is one of the large farmers and cattlemen of the county. His land is well improved with fences, buildings, etc., and most of it is under a high state of cultivation. He has raised cattle and hogs extensively, as well as followed general farming, and is one of the large wheat growers of the county.

Mr. Paulson was married in 1873 to Miss Ida Margon, who died in February, 1886. In the following December, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Jones, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Braden) Jones, the former a native of Kentucky, who when a boy migrated to Indiana with his parents and settled in Decatur county, and later removed to Green county, where he grew to manhood and met and married Elizabeth Braden. She was a native of Ohio and a daughter of Edward Braden of Tennessee. There were nine children in the Jones family. They came to Butler county in 1876. The following children were born to Mr. Paulson's first marriage: William J., Pearl A., C. H., and Anna May, now the wife of A. W. Tierle, and Emmet P., all of whom reside in Butler county.

Mr. Paulson is not only a successful farmer and stock raiser but he is active and influential in local politics. He is a Republican, and in 1904 was elected county commissioner of Butler county, and served on that board when the splendid new court house was built at El Dorado. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**J. P. Long**, an early settler and one of the substantial citizens of Clifford township, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Mercer county, February 14, 1845, and is a son of John J. and Isabel (Griffith) Long, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Irish and the latter of English descent. In 1855, when J. P. Long was ten years of age, the family left their Pennsylvania home and went to Schuyler county, Illinois, where they made their home until 1870 when they came to Kansas. When they came from Pennsylvania to Illinois they made the trip by

boat down the Alleghany and Ohio rivers and up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to La Grange. When they went from Illinois to Kansas they drove overland, crossing the Mississippi between Quincy and Hannibal when it was at flood stage; they drifted down stream in the ferryboat for a distance of seven miles, landing at Hannibal. After coming to Kansas they remained in Montgomery for a short time, and the same year came on to Butler county. John J., the father, homesteaded a government claim in Butler county in 1870, and the following year, J. P., the subject of this sketch, homesteaded a claim in Clifford township, on section 30. He immediately proceeded to make moderate improvements and built a cabin which served as his home until 1876 when he built a substantial stone house which is still his home.

Mr. Long was married in 1877, to Miss Harriet Spencer, a daughter of J. W. and Mary (Stephens) Spencer. Mrs. Long was born in Connecticut, May 10, 1858, and her parents are also natives of that State. The Spencer family came to Kansas in 1872 and settled in Clifford township, near where the Long family lived. To Mr. and Mrs. Long have been born the following children: LeRoy, born October 3, 1878, died August 21, 1879; Mary, born January 15, 1880, died February 27, 1881; John J., born April 25, 1881, farmer, Butler county; Louis L., born January 13, 1883, resides on the home place; Margaret A., born September 25, 1884, married Charles T. Edwards, Marion county; Winifred, born March 2, 1887, married D. C. Ashenfelter, Butler county; Esther M., born October 9, 1889, married H. E. Hoss, farmer, Butler county; George P., born July 9, 1891, resides on the home place, and a son born in 1894, died in infancy. The wife and mother departed this life in February, 1894.

Like many of the other early settlers of Butler county, when Mr. Long came here, his financial means were limited, and he was compelled to make every effort to get by the early years of failure. After his crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers in 1874, he spent the following winter in Joplin, Mo., where he drove a team in connection with lead and zinc mines there. He returned to his Butler county farm in the spring of 1875, and prosperity gradually came to him; and for years he has been one of the substantial and well to do farmers and stockmen of Clifford township. His farm is well improved with good buildings and is one of the fertile and productive farms of Butler county.

During the early days on the plains, Mr. Long endured many hardships and inconveniences. At one time he was caught in a blizzard and narrowly escaped being frozen to death, but fortunately reached the home of Charles Cain in time to save his life, but was not able to continue his journey homeward until the next day. Game was plentiful when he came here, and he has hunted buffalo just west of Wichita. He went on a hunting trip there in 1872, returning in about a week with a plentiful supply of buffalo meat. He did considerable freighting between Emporia and Old Plum Grove in the early seventies. It required five days to make the round trip between these points. He would camp by the



wayside, roll himself up in his blanket, and it was not an uncommon thing to find himself completely covered with snow in the morning when he awoke.

Mr. Long was affiliated with the Democratic party for a number of years, but recent research and investigation of political policies of different parties have convinced him that the policies and principles of the Socialist party are more in harmony with his personal views. He is an extensive reader and a close observer, and has been a student of men and events all his life.

**Edward T. Eaton**, one of the sturdy pioneers of Butler county and a veteran of the Civil war, comes from an old and distinguished Colonial family. Mr. Eaton was born in Hancock county, Illinois, March 14, 1841, and is a son of David J. and Agnes (Avisé) Eaton, the former of New Jersey, and comes from an old New England family of English descent. A number of the Eatons came to this country in the early Colonial days. Francis Eaton came on the *Mayflower* in 1620, and John Eaton landed in New England after making the voyage on the *Elizabeth Ann* in 1635; William came on the *Hercules* in 1637, all of whom were brothers, and Edward T., the subject of this sketch is a descendant of one of these brothers. Isaac Eaton, who lived at Hopewell, N. J., and died in 1776, was the great grandfather of Edward T., and founded the first Baptist school in America, at Hopewell, N. J.

David J. Eaton, the father of Edward T., was a wagon-maker, and he and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the oldest, and Isaac was the youngest. Isaac also served in the Civil war, being a member of Company I, Sixteenth regiment, Illinois infantry. He had some difficulty in getting into the service on account of being under age and under size, but he was determined to pass muster, and after being rejected once by the recruiting officer, he went to the nearest shoemaker and had high heels put on his shoes, and, the next time, was successful in passing. He served throughout the war, and at its close was mustered out of service and honorably discharged.

Edward T. Eaton worked at the carpenter's trade in early life, and, during the Civil war, enlisted in Company C, Fiftieth regiment, Illinois infantry, and served until the close of the war. He was with Sherman on his great march to the sea, and in the campaign in North Carolina, when Johnson surrendered. He acted as brigade headquarters clerk while in the service, and participated in the grand review at Washington, after the close of the war. He was mustered out of the service, July 13, 1865, and then returned to Illinois, and resumed work at his trade, and also followed contracting.

Mr. Eaton was married, in 1863, to Miss Rebecca Welsh of Fulton county, Illinois. Her parents were Thomas J. and Jennie (Baldrich) Welsh, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of South Carolina. To Mr. and Mrs. Eaton have been born four children, as follows:

Curtiss Powell, deceased; Minnie B., deceased; Edith A., deceased, and William E., born February 28, 1880.

In the spring of 1870, Mr. Eaton came to Kansas, first stopping at Humboldt. He started to walk from that point to Butler county, but was fortunate in getting a ride with an emigrant who was driving through. After reaching Butler county, he worked at the carpenter trade in various places while his wife and children remained in Quincy, Ill. When he came here he had less than \$5, and after saving his money for a season, he was able to bring his family to their new home in Butler county, which was a one room affair, 12x14 feet, located on his claim on section 20, Milton township. Here the little family began life on the plains and joined the struggle of the early pioneers to make a home for themselves and develop a new country. Notwithstanding they experienced many hardships in the early days, they were always satisfied with Kansas and never once thought of retracing their steps. Mrs. Eaton taught school for three or four years after coming to Butler county, and bears the distinction of having taught the first school in Milton township. Money was scarce in those days, and Mr. Eaton says his entire income, in cash from all sources for one entire year, was twenty-five dollars. Provisions and various articles were used for barter, and he frequently would take in trade articles for which he had no immediate use.

Mr. Eaton was postmaster at Holden for twelve years. This was the first postoffice in Milton township. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and the Grand Army of the Republic, and he and Mrs. Eaton are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Whitewater, and Mr. Eaton has been chairman of the building committee. Mrs. Eaton is a charter member of the Woman's Relief Corps, No. 178.

**J. B. Spangler**, a Butler county pioneer and one of the most substantial citizens of Fairmount township, has been a resident of this county for forty-five years. He has contributed his share towards converting this section of the State, from an unpeopled plain, the future of which at times seemed uncertain, to one of the populous and prosperous counties of Kansas.

J. B. Spangler was born in Carroll county, Indiana, January 30, 1844, a son of Samuel and Katherine (Louther) Spangler, both natives of Indiana, where they spent their lives. He was reared in Indiana, remaining in that State until 1886, when he went to Minnesota and was, shortly afterward, married to Miss Julia Olinger. She was born in Carroll county, Indiana, March 25, 1840, a daughter of George and Mary (Ferguson) Olinger, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Tennessee, and of Scotch ancestry. The father died in Indiana, and the mother spent the last few years of her life at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Spangler, and died in 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Spangler remained in Minnesota about two years, but were not favorably impressed with that section of the county on account

of its rigorous climate. In 1870, they drove from Minnesota to Missouri, settling at Pleasant Hill, Cass county, and remained there until April, 1871, when they came to Butler county, driving across the plains from Missouri with two yokes of cattle and a wagon, the trip requiring two weeks. They homesteaded eighty acres of land in Fairmount township, which has been the family home since that time, and an unusual thing in connection with the record of this place, is that it has never been incumbered by a mortgage or any other form of lien, and it is the only place in Fairmount township of which this can truthfully be said. Some years after settling here, Mr. Spangler bought eighty acres more, three quarters of a mile north of his homestead, and his son now resides on that eighty.

When the Spangler family came to Butler county, their earthly possessions consisted of their two yokes of cattle and the covered wagon with a few household goods; and from March 22 to April 22, they camped on the bank of the Whitewater, while they were building a little shack on their claim into which they moved on the latter date. They endured many hardships and inconveniences in the early days, but with all, they have never had reason to regret taking up their home in Butler county. They have prospered and are now of the influential and well to do people of this county, and recognized leaders in their locality. When the Spanglers settled here the country was in quite a primitive condition; prairie fires were frequent and their little cabin home was threatened on numerous occasions by the flames that swept over the plains. During the first few years here Indian stragglers frequently happened along the trail, begging for food at the few cabins along the wayside, the Wichita trail being within half a mile of the Spangler home. In those days great herds of cattle were driven over this trail, and the cowboys on their ponies and the cattle as they moved across the plains presented a picturesque sight which is still fresh in the memory of the early pioneers.

To Mr. and Mrs. Spangler have been born the following children: Mary Ellen, married B. D. Cooper, lives in Butler county; Amy, married Scott Kelsheimer of Marion county, Kansas; Lewis F., farmer, Fairmount township, and Ida J., married S. R. Holden, Elbing, Kans. Mr. Spangler is a Democrat and since casting his first ballot, has steadfastly supported the policies and principles of that party.

**J. K. Nellens**, now deceased, was a prominent farmer and stockman of Fairmount township and the pioneer thresher of northwest Butler county. Mr. Nellens was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, February 25, 1846, and was the oldest of eleven children, born to Moses and Lucinda (Strosnider) Nellens, both natives of Ohio. Moses Nellens was a son of Patrick Nellens, a native of Ireland, and an early settler in Ohio. He came to that State when a young man, and married a Miss Tipton, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Moses Nellens grew to manhood in Ohio where he was married, and in 1847, removed to Fulton county, Indiana, and he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives there.

J. K. Nellens was reared on the farm in Fulton county, Indiana, and in 1875 he was united in marriage with Miss Emeline Myers, a native of Stark county, Indiana. She is a daughter of Jacob and Temperance (Dipert) Myers, natives of Ohio. The parents were married in that State, and removed to Stark county, Indiana, where they spent their lives. In 1876, J. K. Nellens came to Butler county, Kansas, to operate a section of land which his uncle, Thomas Nellens, had purchased in 1873. He had bought the place for his children, but they were not favorably impressed with this part of the country, and refused to remain on the farm.

J. K. Nellens came here with his wife and two small children, coming by rail to Peabody. The day he reached here, was one of those windy days of the early times, and his first impression of Kansas was unfavorable. He thought wind was bad enough, but when it was mixed with sand, as it was on that day, he felt that he would never get used to it. However, he proceeded to the farm in Fairmount township and soon got busy, and forgot about the wind. The first year he raised a splendid crop, his corn making seventy-five to eighty bushels per acre, and oats made from seventy-five to 100 bushels. That fall his uncle was here when he threshed, and insisted that he could measure the oats by putting it in sacks as fast as it came from the machine, but when he started to accomplish this feat and take care of an eight inch stream of oats in the old fashioned way, he soon discovered that he was not a Kansas farmer. Indiana methods were too slow here, even in those days, and he gave up the task, and saved himself from being buried in oats.

Mr. Nellens operated this farm for two years and in 1878 bought the northwest quarter of section 3 for \$5.50 per acre, going into debt for the entire purchase price. When he came to Kansas his working capital was limited to \$26 in money and a span of mules. He now owns one of the best farms in Fairmount township, for which he has repeatedly refused \$100 per acre. His place is well improved with commodious, modern residence, lighted with acetylene gas. His barns are of the most modern type, with concrete floors, and his corn crib has a capacity of 3,000 bushels.

In addition to his farming operations, one of the first enterprises in which Mr. Nellens engaged after coming to Butler county was threshing. In 1876 he bought a threshing outfit and that fall his engine exploded. He then discontinued threshing for a time, and in 1880 he bought another rig, and he and his sons have been engaged in threshing every season since that time. He owned the first threshing rig in Fairmount township, and the first wind stacker in northwest Butler county. He and his sons met with unusual success in the threshing business. They operated as many as three threshing outfits during a season, with a total value of \$6,200, and for a number of years they were the only threshers in northwest Butler county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nellens were born the following children: George M. conducts a garage at Newton, Kans., and also follows threshing; Benjamin F. lives in California; Stella M. married Charles Spangler, Walton, Kans.; Mary M., married John Cunningham and lives in Harvey county; Charles R., Potwin, Kans.; James F., Butler county, Kansas; John C., Butler county, Kansas; Brodies, at home; Jacob J., farmer, Butler county; Andrew J., at home; Delta E. married Milton Kimberlin and lives in Butler county. The sons all possess a natural aptitude for mechanics and all of them are expert engineers like their father, and all are following mechanical pursuits except Benjamin F., who is a minister. The Nellens family is well known and highly respected.

On February 26, 1916, as J. K. Nellens was driving to Elbing in his automobile, he was struck by a Rock Island train. The car was completely demolished, and Mr. Nellens received injuries from which he died the following day without ever regaining consciousness. The exact details will never be known, as there was no one close enough to tell how it happened.

**Marion Worline**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer in the truest sense of the word. He came to Kansas at a time when the west-bound trail almost vanished when Butler county was reached. Marion Worline was born in Delaware county, Ohio, February 1, 1847, and was a son of Abraham and Susanna Magdalena (Worline) Worline. While the parents bore the same name they were not related. The parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent: Abraham Worline's father was reared in Pennsylvania, and his father came from Germany. Abraham Worline was born December 25, 1815 and was married to Susanna Worline, August 6, 1844. He died February 16, 1885. They were the parents of twelve children, and Marion, the subject of this sketch, was the third in order of birth. He grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Ohio, where his parents had settled at a very early date in the history of that State. When he was twenty-one years old, in 1868, the Worline family migrated to Cass county, Missouri, and here the parents spent the remainder of their lives. The father died February 16, 1885, and the mother passed away August 28, 1893.

Marion Worline remained with his parents until November 3, 1870, when he was married to Miss Harriet Eyestone in Fayette county, Illinois. Harriet Eyestone was a native of that county, born March 11, 1850, a daughter of Martin and Nancy (Lock) Eyestone. Her father was a native of Baden, Germany, and came to America when a young man, and Nancy Eyestone was a native of Ohio, where they were married. About a year after their marriage, they removed to Michigan and after remaining there about two years, went to Illinois, and settled in Fayette county. Like most pioneers they were poor and endured many hardships on the plains of Illinois. They needed a cow and the father traded his only pair of boots for one, and the first wheat that they raised the mother fanned the chaff from the grain with a bed sheet. These are some

of the incidences in the early life of that family. However, prosperity soon came, and at the time of his death, the father owned 900 acres of Illinois land. He spent his life in Fayette county, Illinois. He died April, 1898, aged eighty-six years, and his wife died October 22, 1897, aged eighty-two years.

Two weeks after his marriage, Marion Worline and his wife went to Cass county, Missouri, and remained with Mr. Worline's parents until April, 1871, when they loaded their earthly possessions into a wagon, or prairie schooner, and started for southwestern Kansas. They joined a party of other emigrants and the outfit consisted of five wagons, hauled by oxen. It was a long and tedious trip and frequently after their oxen had trudged all day through the mud, the party could look back and see where they had camped the night before. After reaching Butler county, Mr. Worline filed on eighty acres of land in Fairmount township and built a little shack which afforded meager shelter, during the first year, but in the fall he built a more substantial cabin, 12x16 feet, which served as the family home for a number of years. When they came here they were poor. About all they owned was their oxen, and when Mr. Worline started for Kansas he had \$15 in money, but lost his pocketbook, which contained this money, and he landed in Butler county penniless. However, his money was found by a freighter along the trail, who afterward returned it to Mr. Worline. Mr. Worline, after having passed through the trials and various vicissitudes incident to the settlement of a new country, finally met with success and was one of Butler county's prosperous and most substantial citizens. At the time of his death, August 4, 1914, he owned 280 acres of land, and for years had been a prominent farmer and stockman of his community. He took an active interest in political affairs and during his lifetime supported the principals of the Democratic party, and took a deep interest in its policies. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Peabody. Marion Worline and wife were the parents of the following children: Edna C. and Addie G., died in infancy; Nora W., married J. B. Moore, of Butler county; Vely Perry, farmer and stockman, Plum Groe township; Frederick Morton, traveling salesman for the International Harvester Company, resides at Peabody, Kans.; Robert Hite, attorney-at-law, resides at Kansas City, Kans.; Corby Olin, farmer and stockman, Fairmount township; Bonnie G., married Ernest Weaver, Clifford township, and Charles Ross, living on the home farm with his mother. All of the Worline sons are successful and prosperous and representative citizens of worth and responsibility.

**James O. Robinson** was one of the sturdy pioneers who, although stricken by the hand of death at the age when he had just passed the prime of manhood, contributed his part in laying the foundation for the future development of this county. His unfinished work as a pioneer was taken up by his faithful wife when his task of life was ended. She now resides in her cozy home at Whitewater and is recognized as one of the pioneer mothers of Butler county.

James O. Robinson was born in Belfast, Ireland, May 18, 1829, and was a son of Robert Robinson, a native of Scotland, who went to Ireland when a young man, where he married an Irish girl and remained in Ireland the balance of his days. James O. Robinson was the youngest of a family of eleven children. When he was fourteen years of age he went to sea, and was a sailor on the Atlantic ocean until he was twenty-five years old, when he came to America. He remained in New York City a short time, when he went to Buffalo. His natural inclination to life on the water soon led him into employment as a sailor on the Great Lakes. His early training and natural ability were readily recognized, and rapid promotion followed. He soon became first mate and later captain, and sailed between Chicago and Buffalo until 1871. In the meantime he and his wife were living in Cook county, Illinois, near Chicago. In 1871 they came to Butler county, Kansas, and homesteaded a quarter section of land in section 34, Milton township, where Mr. Robinson was engaged in farming until his death, December 17, 1886.

On July 17, 1854, James O. Robinson and Miss Harriet Raymond were united in marriage at Chicago, Ill. She was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 12, 1837, a daughter of John and Louisa Raymond. The Raymond family immigrated to America when Mrs. Robinson was six years old. A short time after landing in New York, they went to Illinois, the father buying eighty acres of school land in Will county, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. The father died in 1853 and the mother passed away in 1887. To James O. Robinson and wife were born the following children: Emily, married John Miller and resides in Butler county; Elizabeth, married Edward Balter and resides in Texas; Jennie and Robert, twins, the former now being the wife of George Johnson, both residing in Butler county; James, resides in Texas; Mrs. Marha Smith, of Wichita, and Lucinda, who resides with her mother at Whitewater.

Lucinda Robinson is a woman of unusual qualities, and much credit is due her for the part that she has taken in the development of Butler county, and her co-operation with her mother. She is a prominent member of the Rebekah lodge and at present is treasurer of the local organization, also past noble grand. She was a representative of her lodge at the assembly of the grand lodge at Topeka in 1915. She is a capable woman of high business ability. After the death of the father she and her mother practically took charge of the place, under great disadvantages and discouraging conditions.

The life and the lot of the Robinson family in the early days were not unlike the experiences of the average pioneer. When they came here they had very little capital, and their first years were a struggle with crop failures, grasshoppers and all the other obstacles incident to the early years in Kansas, and they were not by any means started on the road to prosperity when the great calamity of the father's death fell

on the family. Undaunted by these discouraging conditions the mother and daughter set to work with brave hearts and a determination to win, and they did. By industry and self-denial they succeeded in paying off the mortgage and prosperity followed until, by their accumulation, they rank among the well-to-do people of western Butler county. In 1909 the mother and her daughter, Lucinda, removed to Whitewater, where they have a comfortable home and rank among the leading families of Butler county.

**A. C. Ramsey**, one of the extensive cattlemen of Butler county at one time, and now one of the large land owners of the county, has had an unusual career. Mr. Ramsey is a native of Ohio, and was born in Coshocton county, June 7, 1837, of Scotch-Irish descent, his parents being natives of the northern part of Ireland. A. C. was one of a large family, and his parents were poor, and thus his opportunities to obtain an education were limited. When he was quite young his father died and his mother removed from Coshocton county to Guernsey county, Ohio, and A. C. went to western Ohio, where he was employed by a fur trader for one year, receiving for his services for the year \$100, and at the end of that time he had saved \$80 out of his earnings, after which time he was engaged in the merchandise trade. He was a keen, close observer when a boy, a faculty which he has not only retained throughout life, but developed to a marked degree, and during the time he was employed by the fur dealer, there were few details in connection with that business but what he learned thoroughly. A. C. and his brother opened a general merchandise store at Belle Center, Ohio, and in connection with the mercantile business engaged in buying furs. A. C. Ramsey rode through the wilderness of western Ohio and eastern Indiana buying furs from hunters and trappers and establishing agencies, and for fifteen years did a large and profitable business in the fur trade, while his brother looked after the management of their store at Belle Center, which had developed into a large mercantile institution. They also bought and sold grain, seeds, wools, etc., on a large scale.

Mr. Ramsey disposed of his interests in Ohio in 1883, with several thousand dollars to the good, and then began to seek fields of investment with greater possibilities. He saw an opportunity in the West, and became interested in Butler county. He and four other gentlemen organized the Buckeye Land and Cattle Company. This company acquired something like 7,000 acres of land, most of which was located in Lincoln township, Butler county, and it extended into Sycamore and Chelsea townships. The land cost from \$3 to \$8 an acre. The principal idea of the company was to pasture Texas cattle here. The price for pasturing cattle in those days ranged from \$1.25 to \$2 per head for the season, beginning April 20 and ending on the middle of October. The company did a large business, but after a time unforeseen obstacles developed, and the company was discontinued as an organized unit, and



since that time Mr. Ramsey has been operating in the cattle business independently, after having been manager and a heavy stockholder in the Buckeye Land and Cattle Company for several years.

A. C. Ramsey married Margaret Clark, a native of Ohio, and seven children, five boys and two girls, were born to this union. Mr. Ramsey has divided a part of his place among his sons, who are now conducting the stock business on an extensive scale. A. C. and George A. operated in partnership from 1905 to 1912, but are now carrying on business independently. The Ramsey ranch consists of twelve sections in Lincoln township, and is one of the large ranches remaining in Butler county. A. C. Ramsey has retired from the cattle business.

**W. H. Cain.**—It is almost impossible for even the student of history to conceive of the great work that has been accomplished in the last half century by the pioneers who opened up and developed the West, much less for the casual observer to have any understanding of this great work of founding, building and bettering a new country. It is possible that these pioneers of the plains "buiilded better than they knew." At any rate, it is hoped that a review of the careers of some of them, whose experiences were similar to the career of W. H. Cain—men and women who paid the "Price of the Prairie," and who were factors in the "Winning of the West"—will not only give the present and future generations much valuable information, but furnish an inspiration for better citizenship.

W. H. Cain, a Civil war veteran and a Butler county pioneer, was born in Elmira, Chemung county, New York, February 10, 1830, a son of William and Lucinda (Valleau) Cain, the former a native of Herkimer county, New York, and the latter of Chemung county. Lucinda Valleau was a daughter of Theodore and Elizabeth (Linderman) Valleau. The Linderman family is of German descent and the Valleaus came from France, and the orginal spelling of the name was De Valleau.

When W. H. Cain was a small boy his father died at the age of thirty-five, leaving a widow and four children. The mother and the children lived in Elmira, N. Y. When W. H. was growing up he was something of a turbulent youth, and was much given to running the streets, and it was a problem for his mother to know what to do with him. A relative in northern Illinois offered him a home if he would come there and stay. He willingly accepted and when he was nine years of age he was shipped West and remained there for four years, when he returned to New York, and after remaining three years, went to Rockford, Ill. He was nearly seventeen by this time and obtained employment in a reaper factory at Rockford. In the meantime his mother had also moved there, in 1856.

At the outbreak of the Civil war, Mr. Cain was one of the first to offer his services in response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. However, Mr. Cain received an injury which prevented him from entering the service at that time, but in the fall of 1862, he enlisted in

Company K, Seventy-fourth regiment, Illinois infantry, under Captain Ward and Colonel March. Mr. Cain's regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, under General Thomas, and participated in the battles of Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Perryville, Stone River and the campaign against Atlanta, and Mr. Cain was under fire with his regiment for a hundred days during the Atlanta campaign. On June 10, 1865, he was mustered out of service and honorably discharged, after having obtained the rank of second lieutenant.

At the close of the war Mr. Cain returned to his home at Rockford, Ill., and on February 1, 1866, was married to Miss Lucy Marsh, a native of Winnebago county, Illinois. Mrs. Cain is a daughter of Russell and Mary Ann (Hayes) Marsh, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Canada, of Vermont parentage. Mr. and Mrs. Cain lived near Rockford, Ill., after their marriage until 1869, when they went to Iowa, locating near Fort Dodge, where they farmed rented land for fifteen years. In 1884 they removed to western Nebraska, and the same year came to Butler county, Kansas, settling in Lincoln township, where they bought the northwestern quarter of section 5. Mr. Cain borrowed \$200 to make his first payment. The place was unimproved, and Mr. Cain built a stable, 14x32 feet, which they used as a residence during the first summer and in the fall built a home and turned the stable over to the horses. When the Cain family settled in Lincoln township it was a wild, unbroken country, covered by a luxuriant growth of blue stem. Mr. Cain says that people told him that he would starve to death out there on the plains, and he also adds that there were times in the early days when it looked as though the guess would come true. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, making the stock business the principal feature, and has prospered and made money. He bought additional land, adding three quarter sections to his first purchase, and now owns 640 acres and is one of Butler county's well-to-do citizens, and is, perhaps, one of the best known men in the county. He says he always managed to get along pretty well, even from the start, although during the first few years dollars were not as numerous as the "leaves of the forest." He has an ideal stock farm, well watered, fenced and improved, with two good windmills.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cain have been born the following children: H. E., Lincoln township; Mary L., married E. S. Rogers, Pueblo, Colo.; W. R., on the homestead; Carrie E., married E. D. Stalnaker, Peabody, Kans.; Dora V., resides at home; Lula J., married Preston L. Beard, and they are both deceased; Nina E. married G. V. Beard, Douglass, Kans.; Charles R. Lincoln township, and George M., resides at home with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Cain are representative pioneers of Butler county, and they have a broad acquaintance and many friends. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated February 1, 1916, and their many friends and relatives joined to make of this an eventful occasion. Among

the many presents which they received was a set of spoons from Mrs. Carolina P. Brazee, of Rockland, Ill., from whom Mr. Cain purchased 480 acres of his Lincoln township farm.

Mr. Cain is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, J. Y. Smith Post, No. 377, Potwin, Kans., and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a staunch Republican and bears the distinction of having cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States.

**Silas Magill**, a Butler county pioneer and prosperous farmer and stockman of Bruno township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born January 16, 1841. He is a son of Charles and Sarah (Courson) Magill, the former a native of Pennsylvania, of Irish descent, and the latter of German descent, and a native of Pennsylvania. Charles Magill was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, January 6, 1806, and died in Illinois, October 21, 1888. In the early days Charles Magill was engaged in the lumber business in Pennsylvania and followed that vocation for thirty years. At that time it was the custom of lumbermen to raft their lumber down the Alleghany and Ohio rivers to market at Pittsburg or Cincinnati. Charles Magill was a son of Arthur Magill, a native of Belfast, Ireland, who immigrated to America when a young man. Charles Magill was a deeply religious man and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Silas Magill was one of a family of eleven children. He grew to manhood in Pennsylvania, and was educated in the public schools. On April 2, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Olive Morrison, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of G. W. and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Morrison. The mother, Mary Jacobs, was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Mrs. Magill was born November 6, 1848, and was one of a family of two children born to her parents.

To Silas Magill and wife have been born the following children: George, Vaughn, N. M.; Charles M., deceased; W. E., Eads, Colo.; Arthur, at home; J. V., Canton, Ohio; Clyde, Clearwater, Kans., and Ollie O., at home.

A few days after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Magill left their Pennsylvania home and went to Illinois, where he rented land from his father, remaining there until 1871. They then came to Kansas, at first going to Neosho Falls, and Mrs. Magill and her four months' old baby remained at a hotel there while Mr. Magill came to Butler county and filed on a claim in Bruno township. Here he pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 21, and returned to Neosho Falls for his wife and child. They came to Butler county by stage, a distance of about 100 miles. The roads were bad and the trip required two days. After coming to Butler county the family made their home temporarily with a sister of Mr. Magill's until a little cabin, 12x16 feet, was built, when they moved into it and began life on the plains of Butler county in a very humble way. Like many others of the early settlers, Mr. Magill says that

while he was getting on fairly well in the world, he would have left Butler county during the first year, but that he was too poor to get away. and that after he became financially able to go if he wished, neither he nor Mrs. Magill wanted to go. On the whole, they have prospered and made money and today are among the substantial citizens of Butler county. Their first farming in Butler county was done with a yoke of oxen, which they frequently drove to Augusta, a distance of eight miles, but now when they go to Augusta it is only a matter of a few minutes with their Overland automobile instead of an all day's drive with the oxen of the early seventies.

**S. P. Carnahan**, of Douglass, Kans., is a Civil war veteran and one of the substantial old pioneers of Butler county, who comes from a line of revolutionary ancestors, and a representative of that family has served in every war of importance in which this country has been engaged since the foundation of the republic.

S. P. Carnahan is a native of Pennsylvania and was born in 1837. His parents were Robert C. and Jane (Berry) Carnahan, natives of Pennsylvania; the father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and took part in most of the important engagements of that conflict. He was a son of John Carnahan, who served as a captain in Washington army during the Revolutionary war. He was a native of Ireland, coming here before the Revolutionary war, and served, at that time, with the Pennsylvania troops.

S. P. Carnahan was reared in Pennsylvania, educated in the public schools and was engaged in farming until the Civil war broke out, when he responded to President Lincoln's call and served throughout the war. In 1870, he was united in marriage with Miss Josephine S. Huff, a daughter of Dr. John Huff, who was a pioneer physician in Illinois, and the following children were born to this union: August B., George A., resides on the home farm in Douglass township, and Jerome R., resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mr. Carnahan came to Kansas in 1871 and settled on 160 acres of land in Douglass township, Butler county. He later added eighty acres to his original homestead, where he successfully carried on farming and stock raising for a number of years and accumulated a competency of this world's goods. Recently he has deeded all his land to his son except 100 acres which he has reserved as a sort of a rainy day emergency place.

Since locating in Butler county, Mr. Carnahan has taken a prominent part in local affairs and has held a number of local offices of trust and responsibility. He served as clerk of his district for four years and has been township trustee and township clerk for a number of terms. He is prominent in fraternal circles, being a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Carnahan has seen Butler county develop from an unimproved State where the blue stem waved and the buffalo roamed to one of the



MR. AND MRS. S. P. CARNAHAN

most prosperous and highly developed counties in the great commonwealth of Kansas. To such men as he who paved the way for this great development and higher civilization, the present and future generations owe a debt of gratitude which can never be paid.

Mrs. J. H. Carnahar is a woman of rare literary ability and has written many poems of real merit, among which is the following beautiful little poem, a striking example of the style of her verse:

## OCTOBER.

The sun flings over thee a veil, mellow and lambent!  
For thee the earth is arrayed in vivid colors!  
Plant, leaf and flower are sun-kissed and radiant;  
All in beauties race tawny leaves and lovely flowers.

Thine own maid-of-honor, the Goldenrod greets thee,  
By brook-side and by-path, in orchard, meadow and lane,  
Tall Canna lilies are flaunting their beauty—  
All sweet in the sunshine, the dew and the rain.

The Harvest is here! and the Corn King is waiting—  
With titled cereals, to crown thee Queen of the feast.  
The Banquet is spread; there is nothing more wanting—  
Save to ask the Great Giver our harvest to bless.

To thee, Queen of Harvest! lovely October!  
We bring all our treasures, and fruits of the land;  
Prince Wheat, and his kinsman, the wonderful Kafir,  
Place the strong "Staff of Life" in thy beautiful hand.

J. H. C.

**Aaron Monroe Wolf**, a Butler county pioneer and prominent citizen of Bruno township, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, near the town of New Lisbon, June 11, 1846. He is a son of George and Lydia (Fetterhoff) Wolf. The mother was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and the father was born in Columbiana county, Ohio. He was a son of Jacob Wolf, who was a son of Henry Wolf, a native of Germany, who immigrated to America and settled in Virginia during Colonial times. He was a soldier in the American army during the Revolutionary war, and served throughout the seven years of that long and tedious struggle which ended in independence. After the Revolutionary war, Henry Wolf with his family traveled 300 miles northwest from their Virginia home and settled in the wilderness of the Northwest Territory, a part of which later became the State of Ohio, and when that State was organized and divided into counties, the Wolf family was in Columbiana county.

When Aaron M. Wolf was nine years old, in 1855, he removed with

his parents to Steuben county, Indiana, and here he grew to manhood and received a good education. After attending the district school he attended an academy at Angola, and in early life was engaged in teaching, and in all he taught eight terms. During the Civil war Mr. Wolf served for two years, 1864 and 1865.

In 1870 Mr. Wolf came to Butler county, Kansas, in company with a friend from Indiana, Freeman James. After coming here each pre-empted a quarter section of land, Mr. Wolf taking the northwest quarter of section 5, Bruno township. He immediately began improving his claim. He first built a small cabin, 14x16 feet. He broke some prairie and remained on his claim until 1873, when he returned to Indiana, remaining until 1878, when he came back to his Butler county farm.

Mr. Wolf was first married in 1876 to Miss Mary Elliott, a native of Ohio. She died December 1, 1879, leaving one child. On February 23, 1883, Mr. Wolf was married to Miss Jennie Gray, a daughter of John Gray, a Butler county pioneer who emigrated from Ireland in 1869, and settled in Hancock county, Illinois, where he remained until 1879, when he came to Butler county with his family, settling in Bruno township. He was a very successful man in a financial way and accumulated considerable property. He died May 12, 1915, and his wife died January 24, 1901. They were the parents of four children, of whom Mrs. Wolf was the third in order of birth. She was born on February 22, 1862. The following children were born to Aaron Monroe and Jennie (Gray) Wolf: Tina, married A. E. Gilbert, Chillicothe, Mo.; Emerson, Bruno township; Lyell, Bruno township; E. W., Augusta, Kans.; Norman G., at home; Milton, at home; Floyd, at home, and Edna, at home.

Mr. Wolf came to Butler county with very little capital, and by his own unaided efforts, in the face of adversities which confronted the early settlers of the plains, he has raised a large family in a way that is a credit to both himself and his county, and accumulated a competence, and is today one of the substantial and prosperous citizens of his county. He struggled through the lean and uncertain years of the early days in Butler county, but was never discouraged. His ancestors were men of resolute character, before whose determination the wilderness of Ohio vanished, and was succeeded by civilization and its institutions, and he emulated their example in the part that he has played in reclaiming the West. Mr. Wolf freighted between Emporia and Wichita, in 1870 and 1871, and after coming here, dug wells, cut wood, and, in fact, did anything to earn an honest dollar, and his industry and thrift of former days have been rewarded.

Mr. Wolf is a staunch Republican, and takes a keen interest in political affairs. For years he was a member of the school board, and served as director and treasurer for four terms. He has been justice of the peace since 1901 and notary public since 1905, receiving his first commission from Governor Hoch, and since that time, has been re-commissioned a notary public by Governor Stubbs. He represents the

Butler County Fire and Tornado Insurance Company, and the many details in connection with his various responsibilities makes a very busy man of Mr. Wolf. He is a member of the Anti Horse Thief Association and one of Butler county's substantial citizens.

**Herman T. Foskett**, a pioneer of Butler county and prominent farmer and stockman of Fairview township, was born in Medina county, Ohio, October 31, 1854, and is a son of Fordyce and Lydia (Phillips) Foskett. The father died in 1860, leaving the widowed mother and four children. Fordyce Foskett, the father, was born in Charlestown, Mass., December 16, 1816. He was the son of Hosea, who was also a native of Massachusetts, and a prosperous and well-to-do man for his time. He migrated from Massachusetts to Ohio with his family in the thirties, and Fordyce D. Foskett here met Lydia Phillips and they were married October 21, 1847. She was born in Bristol township, Ontario county, New York, July 6, 1827, a daughter of Daniel and Achsah (Simmons) Phillips, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of Vermont. Daniel Phillips was a son of Zebulon Phillips, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and aid-de-camp to General Washington. In 1831 Daniel Phillips left New York State with his family and went by boat from Buffalo, N. Y., to Cleveland, Ohio, and from there to Huron county, where the family settled, and the parents spent the remainder of their lives.

Herman T. Foskett was one of a family of four children born to Fordyce D. and Lydia (Phillips) Foskett, as follows: Amarilla, now the widow of H. H. Hulbert, a pioneer settler of Butler county; Hosea G., deceased; Ella C. married P. W. Crawford, Seville, Ohio, and Herman T., the subject of this sketch. About ten years after the death of the husband and father, Mrs. Foskett and her son, Herman T., then a boy about sixteen years of age, left Ohio and came to Kansas, coming as far as Florence by rail. They lived about a year with Mrs. Foskett's daughter, Mrs. H. H. Hulbert, and in 1872 homesteaded a claim on section 17, Faidyview township. They built a small cabin, 12x14 feet, and bought a yoke of oxen and a wagon for \$110. Mrs. Foskett wanted a cow and started out with her ox team and boy in search of some one who had a cow for sale. She was directed to a Mrs. Cowley, who lived two miles north of El Dorado, where she bought a cow, for which she paid \$50, \$5 for a pig, and fifty cents each for three hens and a rooster. When Mrs. Foskett had loaded her pig and chickens in the wagon and tied the cow behind the wagon and was ready to start with her oxen, Mrs. Cowley remarked that when she reached home she could imagine that her place was well stocked, that the bawling of the cow, the bleating of the calf, the cackling of the hens, and the crowing of the rooster ought to make her think that she was living on a real farm.

Thus Herman Foskett and his mother started in the stock business in Fairview township, and in a few years they were well on the road to prosperity. They have always raised considerable stock and conducted



quite a large dairy, keeping from eighteen to twenty cows. Mrs. Foskett's butter was always in demand and she found a ready sale at top prices for it. Even during grasshopper year, when other settlers were hard up, and many were forced to accept aid, the Fosketts were in a fairly prosperous condition. They had a nice orchard of about 100 trees when the grasshoppers came, and in order to save the trees from devastation, Mrs. Foskett went from time to time among them, shaking the grasshoppers off each tree and succeeded in saving the trees from complete destruction, which was the fate of most of the young orchards of the country.

Mrs. Foskett and her son operated the farm jointly until 1907, when Herman bought his mother's quarter and now owns 240 acres of well improved and productive land near Rock creek, a tributary of the Whitewater. Mr. Foskett was married in 1882 to Miss Euretta Rutherford, a daughter of Daniel Rutherford, who came to Kansas from southern Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Foskett have been born two children: Edith L., deceased, and Ethel Lydia. The Foskett family is well known in Butler county and are of the representatives of this county.

**H. Charles Stephens**, a successful farmer and stockman of Fairmount township, has been brought up in the stock business, and since his boyhood, has been identified with that industry on an extensive scale. Mr. Stephens is a native of Kansas, born at Peabody, September 22, 1884. He is the eldest son of Henry and Louisa (Merkle) Stephens, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Illinois. Henry Stephens was nine years old when he and his widowed mother immigrated to America and settled in LaPorte county, Indiana. A few years later, they removed to Iroquois county, Illinois. They remained there until about 1872, when Henry Stephens came to Kansas. He was about twenty-one years old then. He bought three quarter sections of land in Marion county, and after improving one quarter, he sold it at a very good profit and later he improved the other two quarters, building a large rock barn and a good residence, making of it the best improved farm in southwestern Kansas at that time, and sold it for \$10,000, which was considered a high price in those days. Shortly after selling that property, Mr. Stephens bought ten sections of land in Butler and Marion counties and later established what was known as the Stephens Ranch on a part of it in Butler county. He stocked his place and engaged in the cattle business, following the old ranchers' ideas of handling cattle until 1895. He then conceived the idea of a better plan of conducting the cattle business. He built an elevator and equipped the place with proper machinery for grinding feed, etc., and in 1897, he bought twenty acres of land adjoining the Sante Fe stockyards at Peabody, where he built an elevator with a capacity of 50,000 bushels of grain, and installed modern machinery, and during the next four years, he fed and fitted for market over 6,000 head of cattle, and the combination of his ranch with this plan of feeding proved most profitable. In 1902, Mr. Stephens sold his ele-

vator and feeding station, at Peabody, to Arnold Berns, who is now conducting the business along the plans which Mr. Stephens followed.

After selling the Peabody station, Mr. Stephens and his sons went to Jackson county, Missouri, where they bought 400 acres of land where they established a similar institution, and the youngest son, John Stephens, now owns and is operating it, successfully. Henry Stephens was a man of unusual foresight and business capacity. He came to Kansas with about \$4,000 capital, and at the time of his death, November, 1913, his estate was conservatively estimated at \$175,000.

H. Charles Stephens, whose name introduces this sketch, owns 400 acres in Fairmount township, which is a part of the original Stephens ranch, and is, no doubt, the best equipped ranch for cattle feeding today in Butler county. He has a commodious barn, 70x144 feet, grain elevator, and grinding machinery. His barn has a capacity of 200 tons of hay, and his stables are capable of accommodating 200 head of cattle. In addition to his extensive cattle feeding business, he is also breeding Percheron horses and mules on a moderate scale. However, cattle and hogs are the chief factors of his business.

Mr. Stephens was married in 1912, to Miss Julia Baird, a native of Comanche county, Kansas, and reared in Wyandotte county. Her father, H. L. Baird, was one of the first homesteaders in Comanche county, coming from Ohio to this State. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens have two children, H. Charles, Jr., born March 10, 1915, and Alice Louisa, born May 19, 1916.

**Thomas J. Whiteside**, a pioneer farmer and merchant, now deceased, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, May 22, 1844, a son of Jenkin and Elizabeth (Neighbor) Whiteside, early settlers of Ohio. Jenkin Whiteside was a native of Tennessee, and a son of James Whiteside who emigrated from Ireland to the United States prior to the American Revolution. After coming to the United States James Whiteside, in the course of a few years, went to central Tennessee, where he was married and lived for many years, when he removed to eastern Ohio with his family and settled in the heavily timbered country near Wills Creek. He bought land in Coshocton county from a Philadelphia land company, who had bought a large tract of land when Ohio was still a part of the Northwest Territory. Here James Whiteside spent the remainder of his life.

Jenkin Whiteside was one of their younger children. He was born on the plantation in Tennessee and was a young man when his parents went to Ohio. He was married in Ohio to Elizabeth Neighbor, a native of Pennsylvania, her parents being of German descent. Jenkin Whiteside and wife were the parents of nine children, of whom Thomas J. was the fourth in order of birth. He grew to manhood on the farm in Coshocton county and attended the district schools. On August 22, 1862, he enlisted in company A, Eighty-eighth regiment, Ohio infantry, under the command of Captain Henley. They were of the Home Guard of

Ohio and had the Knights of the Golden Circle under surveillance. He was discharged July 1, 1865.

Mr. Whiteside was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Jane Roach, a native of Guernsey county, Ohio. She was born January 20, 1847, and was a daughter of William and Mary (Cochran) Roach, natives of Ohio. The Roach family came from Dublin, Ireland. Mary Cochran was a daughter of William Cochran. After their marriage Thomas J. Whiteside and his wife settled on a farm in Coshocton county and lived in Coshocton and Guernsey counties about three years, and in the fall of 1869 went to Iowa. In April, 1871, they started in a covered wagon to Kansas. The journey required about four weeks over bad roads and in wet weather and after reaching Humboldt, Kans., where the land office was located, they decided to locate in Butler county. After reaching Towanda, the party camped for a few days and Mr. Whiteside located a claim in Murdock township. They built a small sod house and covered it with a wagon cover, and lived in it that fall, when they moved into a more pretentious home where they lived until the fall of 1874.

After the ravages of the grasshoppers, and a deed for the farm was secured from the Government, the family started for Ohio and, after a stay of about a year in Illinois, they reached Ohio. In 1879 they returned to the Kansas farm where they lived until 1888, when they removed to Brainerd, where Mr. Whiteside owned a livery stable and general store. After the railroad was built through Whitewater, the livery stable was traded for land in Missouri and the family moved to Maries county, Missouri, where Mr. Whiteside died March 8, 1893, when the family returned to Butler county.

Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside were the parents of the following children: U. G., born February 22, 1866, Butler county; William C., born August 7, 1868, Whitewater, Kans.; Bertha E., born August 29, 1871, and died June 6, 1896; E. W., born September 21, 1873, Butler county, Kansas; Frank M., born January 29, 1877, died February 2, 1900; Thomas and Jennie, twins, born November 10, 1879, Jennie is now the wife of Roy Nye, Butler county, Kansas; John, born December 16, 1882; Olive M., born May 9, 1885, married C. H. Shuman, Butler county; Mary T., born December 5, 1887, married J. C. Fresh, El Dorado, Kans. All the members of the Whiteside family are industrious, thrifty and prominent in Butler county.

**H. H. Hulburt**, a pioneer of Butler county, and an early day educator, now deceased, was born near Seville, Medina county, Ohio, March 22, 1848. His parents were pioneers of the western reserve, a land grant located in the northern part of Ohio.

H. H. Hulburt was reared in Medina county, Ohio, and received a good common school education. On March 22, 1868, he was united in marriage, in Medina county, Ohio, with Miss Amarilla Norton Foscett, a daughter of Fordyce and Lydia Foscett, both descendants of pioneer American families. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Hul-

burt settled at Seville, Ohio, where Mr. Hulburt followed school teaching, principally, in the winter time, and farmed during the summer seasons.

In the spring of 1871, the Hulburt family came to Kansas, coming as far as Emporia by rail where they took the stage coach for El Dorado, arriving at the latter place at 1:30 in the morning. Shortly after coming here, they homesteaded in Fairview township, their claim being the northeast quarter of section 26. Here they built a little cabin 12x14 feet, and began life on the plains of Butler county. In the fall of that year, Mr. Hulburt was employed to teach a school in Plum Grove township, on the present site of Potwin, and for the next fifteen years, he was one of Butler county's well known and successful school teachers. He was also engaged in farming, although naturally, he was inclined to intellectual pursuits, and never ceased to be a student throughout his life. He was the first clerk of Fairview township. He died July 6, 1898. He was a man of deep, religious convictions, a member of the Baptist church, and a good citizen.

After the death of Mr. Hulburt, Mrs. Hulburt continued the business of the place with the same uniform success, with which it had been previously conducted. Shortly before Mr. Hulburt's death they had bought eighty acres more, for which they had gone into debt. She soon paid out on this, and has prospered and made money. She has raised cattle extensively, and gone into dairying to quite an extent, and has won a reputation in that line of work for making a very superior grade of butter. She is a woman of unusual business ability, and has successfully carried out any projects which she has undertaken. She has been a member of the Baptist church for many years, and has been very active in the work of that denomination.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hulburt have been born five children, as follows: R. C., farmer, Fairview township; Grace, married Carl Parsley, and they live near El Dorado; Chester, lives at Meade, Meade county; Laura, deceased, and two other children who died in infancy. The Hulburt family are well known in Butler county, and belong to the pioneers who reclaimed Butler county, from the great American desert, and builded one of the great counties in the State of Kansas.

**J. C. Ferguson**, a Butler county pioneer, who settled in the vicinity of Whitewater over forty-five years ago, is a native of Kentucky. He was born near Hartford, Ohio county, October 5, 1841, and is a son of John E. and Christine (Taylor) Ferguson, both also natives of Ohio county, Kentucky. John C. was the youngest of a family of six children, and he and his brother, G. W., are the only members of the family now living.

John C. Ferguson remained in his native State until 1865, when he removed to Illinois, locating in Macon county. At that time land could be bought in that part of Illinois for from \$12 to \$16 per acre, and Mr. Ferguson speculated some in city and suburban real estate during his res-

idence of five or six years in Decatur, Ill. In 1870 he came to Kansas and settled on eighty acres of land in Butler county, which is now occupied by a part of the city of Whitewater. He remained there but a short time, however, when he filed on a quarter section, one mile east of the present site of Whitewater. His claim was "jumped," and for a number of years the matter was in litigation in the Butler county courts, and finally Mr. Ferguson received his land patent. He says that the litigation cost him considerably more than the land was worth at that time, but that he felt his claim to be a just one, and fought it out, regardless of costs or consequences, and won. He resided on this claim for a number of years when he sold it and bought some school land in Harvey county where he was successfully engaged in farming until 1908, when he removed to Whitewater where he has since resided, and is one of the substantial men of the community.

Mr. Ferguson was married October 22, 1879, to Miss Mattie E. Pershing, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Isaac and Sarah Pershing, also natives of Pennsylvania. The Pershing family removed from Pennsylvania to Illinois, locating in Hancock county in 1855, when Mrs. Ferguson was four years of age. In 1875 they came to Kansas, locating in Butler county. Mrs. Ferguson died September 9, 1907. She belonged to that high type of American pioneer women and lived a consistent Christian life. Mr. Ferguson is a Democrat, and is inclined to liberality and independence in his political views. Mr. Ferguson passed through the many hardships, incident to pioneer life, nearly a half century ago. When he came to Kansas, Butler county was almost in its primitive state, and when he reached here he had less than \$25, but he was ready and willing to work for success, and he has succeeded. He is a man of strong will and tenacity of purpose when he believes he is right; and when he sets out to accomplish a certain thing, he is not easily persuaded to abandon his purpose. He has been a student of men and affairs all his life, and possesses a broad field of human knowledge, gathered from the experience of a lifetime.

**Wellington Sowers**, a prominent Butler county farmer and stockman who has been a conspicuous success, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio. His parents were Adam and Elizabeth (Malloy) Sowers, the former a native of Germany. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Adam M., died at Leon, Kans., at the age of forty-one, and left a widow, who now resides in Oklahoma; Wellington S., the subject of this sketch; Frank, Warsaw, Ohio, and Mrs. Laura Lowery, Warsaw, Ohio.

Wellington Sowers was educated in the common schools of his native State, and after leaving school, worked by the month for thirteen years in Ohio and Kansas, and worked during that time for only two or three men. He says he "stole" the last employer's girl, for whom he worked, and has her yet. Mr. Sowers came to Kansas in 1885 and bought 520 acres in Bloomington township where he now lives. Since then, he has added 240 acres more to his holdings in Bloomington and

Logan townships, and has followed farming and stock raising. His places are well improved with good dwelling houses, barns, feed granaries, etc. He usually keeps about 100 head of cattle, among which are some registered shorthorns, and twenty head of horses and mules, and sells a carload, or more, of hogs annually.

Mr. Sowers was married in April, 1899, to Mollie Butts of Little Walnut township. Her father, D. G. Butts, came to Butler county in 1870, and located in Spring township. He died in May, 1915. He was a prominent stockman and farmer, and well known throughout southern Kansas. Her mother, Rachel Butts, lives on the home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Sowers have one son, Archie G., who married Grace Snodgrass, of Little Walnut. They are living on the home place in Bloomington township. Mr. Sowers is a progressive, public spirited citizen, and belongs to that type of men who do things every day. To the industry and ability of such men, Butler county owes its greatness.

**P. R. Kinsey**, a leading merchant of Rose Hill, Kans., was born in Ohio, October 25, 1862. He is a son of A. E. and Sarah (Rimes) Kinsey, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: William, janitor of the Washington school, Wichita, Kans.; James L., died in Leadville, Colo., during Leadville gold excitement; Mrs. Branson, of Wichita, Kans.; P. R., the subject of this sketch; Charles E., Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Elizabeth Myers, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Sarah E. Laudon, Derby Kans., and Albert, Topeka, Kans.

P. R. Kinsey came to Kansas with his parents in 1876; they located in Gypsum township, Sedgwick county, and bought 160 acres of school land. His parents spent their lives there. P. R. followed farming on his father's farm for a number of years, and in 1887, bought eighty acres, one mile north of Rose Hill. Since then he has bought eighty acres, which he sold a few years ago. Mrs. Kinsey inherited 160 acres of valuable land, making 240 acres in all. Mr. Kinsey has followed general farming and specialized rather in stock; he fed a carload of cattle every year, buying and raising calves, which he found to be very profitable. Mr. Kinsey left the farm in 1901, and came to Rose Hill, Kans., where he bought one-half interest in the Hall & Canfield store. The next fall, he bought Mr. Hall's interest, and has since been the sole owner and proprietor. He carries a stock of general merchandise which is kept up to the minute. He has a large patronage, which has been won by fair dealing and honest methods.

Mr. Kinsey was married November 28, 1886, to Marv J. King of Pleasant township. Her father, George King, was a pioneer of 1873. He was a native of Bedfordshire, near London, England, and died at Rose Hill, Kans., February 4, 1910, and is buried in Rose Hill cemetery. Her mother, Frances Jane Axtell, was also a native of Bedfordshire, England, and died at Rose Hill, February 5, 1907. Mr. King's hardest day's work, says his daughter, was when he walked eighteen miles to

Wichita, cut a cord of wood and walked back home. The King family suffered many hardships in the pioneer days. The father cut wood on the Walnut river and hauled it with a team of horses to Wichita, where he sold it for \$1.50 per cord. As Mr. Kinsey says, "That was not making money fast, but it kept them from starving."

Mrs. Kinsey had the dangerous and unusual experience of being bitten by a rattlesnake when a young girl. She was on the home place in Pleasant township, helping her father load oats at the time. The snake was thrown on the wagon with the oats where the girl was, and the reptile struck her three times with its poisonous fangs. Her father drove rapidly home, and then rushed to a neighbor, Mr. Sampson, one and one-half miles away for whiskey which he kept in the house. She lay for a week without being moved, and it was a miracle that her life was saved. She taught school for six years in Butler and Sedgwick counties, prior to her marriage. Her parents came direct from England and suffered many hardships before they got a foothold in the new country.

**Charles V. Cain**, a Civil war veteran and early settler who has been a dominant factor in the development of Butler county, is a native of New York. He was born in Elmira, November 12, 1840, a son of William H. and Lucinda (Valleau) Cain, both natives of New York. William H. Cain was born in Oneida county, October 20, 1800, and died October 20, 1846. Lucinda Valleau was born in Tompkins county, November 11, 1813, and was a daughter of Theodore and Elizabeth (Linderman) Valleau, the father being a native of Orange county, New York, and the mother of Tompkins county. The Linderman family are of German descent, and the Valleaus are descendants of French Huguenot stock, whose ancestors settled in North Carolina early in the eighteenth century. Lucinda (Valleau) Cain died in Butler county, September 15, 1899, at the home of her son, William H. Cain.

Charles V. Cain was six years old when his father died, and in 1852, when he was twelve years of age, his mother removed with her family to Ann Arbor, Mich. About a year later young Cain went to live with a sister of his father in Dupage county, Illinois. After remaining there about three years he returned to New York and worked on a farm at Horseheads, near his old home. In 1850, he went to Rockford, Ill., and the following spring went to Springfield, Ill. He was employed there by an old Kentuckian named Jack North. It will be remembered that Springfield was the home of Lincoln, and young Cain, who was an enthusiastic Republican, attended the ratification rally at Springfield, after the nomination of Lincoln and he was rewarded for his enthusiasm by his Kentucky employer, the next morning, by being "fired." He then returned to Rockford and entered the employ of F. H. Manny, a manufacturer of reapers who was a competitor of Cyrus McCormick.

He remained there until 1861, and a year later returned to Rockford, and on August 8, 1862, enlisted in Company K, Seventy-fourth regiment,

Illinois infantry. His company was assembled at Rockford, and on September 28, went to Louisville, Ky., under the command of General Buell. They participated in the battles of Perryville and Nashville, after which Mr. Cain was taken ill and sent to a hospital where he remained until March, 1863. He rejoined his regiment at Murfreesboro in June, 1863, and afterwards guarded supply trains near Chattanooga, in the Sequa-Tehie Valley. After the battle of Chickamauga his command joined the main army at Chattanooga and took part in that battle and also the battle of Missionary Ridge, and then was sent to Knoxville to the relief of General Burnside. During the winter of 1863 and 1864 he was detailed on foraging expeditions, and to operate grist mills in eastern Tennessee. They then went with Sherman and he was at the battle of Dalton and a number of other engagements along the line of that famous March, and after the fall of Atlanta, they were sent back to Nashville, and took part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. On October 28, 1864, he was granted a thirty day furlough and upon his return served in the expedition in pursuit of the Confederate general Hood, and spent the winter of 1864 and 1865 at Huntsville, Ala., and in the spring of 1865, started on a march north, through the mountains of Tennessee, and was in that locality when Lee surrendered. He was then ordered back to Nashville, where he was mustered out in June, 1865, and discharged at Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Cain then returned to Dupage county, Illinois, where he remained until 1870, when he came to Butler county, Kansas, and bought 480 acres of school land for \$4 per acre. Mr. Cain came to Kansas with a considerable amount of capital, compared with other settlers of that time, and was able to engage in farming and stock raising on quite an extensive scale, from the start. In the early days he gave employment to a large number of men in connection with his various enterprises and operations, and in that way helped the new country in a material way. He carried on large farming operations and prospered in the cattle business. In 1901, he sold most of his land, and since that time has lived in Potwin, practically retired.

Mr. Cain was married September 4, 1874, to Miss Nancy N. Wentworth, a native of Ross county, Ohio, and a daughter of George Wentworth. The Wentworth family removed from Ohio to Jackson county, Missouri, at an early day, and located near the Clay county line, in the neighborhood of where the James and Younger boys lived. George Wentworth was unable to serve in the army during the Civil war, but was a strong Union man, and was a member of the Missouri State militia. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cain: Estella V., married E. McCarty, Lincoln township, Butler county, and Lou R., married Mark H. Johnson, Princeton, Wis. Mrs. Cain died February 17, 1896. In 1913 Mr. Cain went to Choteau county, Montana, and homesteaded 160 acres of Government land which he proved up on, and received his final title October 16, 1914. He has improved his Montana



place some and has a good comfortable house on it. Thus it will be seen that he has practically been a pioneer all his life, as the border line of the frontier moved westward, he has followed it.

Mr. Cain is a staunch Republican and has taken an active part in Butler county politics. He has served two terms as township trustee and was postmaster of Potwin for six years. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a charter member of the Knights and Ladies of Security of El Dorado, Kans., Lodge. He has always been interested in the welfare of the community, as well as the State and Nation and is a progressive citizen who heartily supports any worthy enterprise.

**E. D. Stratford**, one of the pioneer lawyers, of Butler county, was born in Vevay, Switzerland county, Indiana, October 15, 1852. He is a son of John and Sarah (Lewis) Stratford who were natives of Pennsylvania and Kentucky, respectively. They were the parents of three children: J. L. Stratford, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, now living at Creswell, Ore.; J. C., a photographer, also a resident of Creswell, Ore., and E. D., the subject of this sketch. E. D. Stratford attended the public schools in Indiana, and later took a course at Howard College, Kokomo, Ind., and after coming to Kansas he attended for a time the State Normal School at Emporia, Kans. He came to Butler county in 1873, and after teaching school a number of terms, read law with Judge A. L. L. Hamilton at El Dorado, and was admitted to the bar in 1878.

Since coming to Butler county, Judge Stratford has been actively identified with the Republican party. Shortly after being admitted to the bar, he was elected probate judge, and at the expiration of his first term, was reelected and served a second term. In 1887, he was elected to the legislature from the northern district of Butler county, and represented his district in the session which followed.

Mr. Stratford has always taken an active interest in educational matters, having served three years as one of the regents of the Kansas State Agricultural College, at Manhattan, and seven years as a member of the El Dorado board of education. Mr. Stratford was appointed a special agent of the United States General Land Office, in 1899, and served in that capacity four years, during which time he performed service, in Oregon, California, Oklahoma, Missouri and Alaska. He spent more than a year in Alaska, with headquarters at Sitka, during which time he became thoroughly acquainted with the geography and resources of that far off country.

In 1903, Judge Stratford returned to El Dorado and resumed the practice of law, associating himself with Vol. P. Mooney. This partnership continued for twelve years, or until Mr. Mooney was appointed probate judge by Governor Capper in September, 1915, to serve out the unexpired term of that office made vacant by the death of Judge McCluggage. Judge Stratford is now serving his second term as a member of the El Dorado city council.

Mr. Stratford was married, February 27, 1883, to Miss Jennie Long, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, January 1, 1875. She was the daughter of Robert and Mary Long. Her father died when she was a child, and the mother brought the family to Butler county in 1876, and settled in El Dorado, where she became postmaster, holding that office for a number of years. To Mr. and Mrs. Stratford have been born six children, as follows: Charles W., married Elsie Howe, who was born, educated and resided in El Dorado until her marriage; "Charley" has been for eight years connected with oil supply houses in Drumright and other points in Oklahoma. Oscar E., married Jessie Perry, well known in Kansas as a newspaper writer of unusual ability, who prior to her marriage was for some time editor of the El Dorado "Republican," and later a writer on the staff of the Wichita "Eagle;" Gussie, the only daughter, is a teacher in the El Dorado public schools; John R., a farmer in eastern Colorado; Ray A., a student at the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, and Clark, a student in the El Dorado High School. All the children have graduated from the El Dorado High School, except Clark, who is yet a student.

Judge Stratford has always been a progressive and public spirited citizen. No man in El Dorado has given more of his time and energy, for the material, and educational advancement than Mr. Stratford.

**George M. Showalter**, one of Butler county's successful farmers and stockman, is a native of Iowa, born in 1869. He is a son of Samuel and Belle Showalter; the father was born in West Virginia, and Belle Greenland Showalter, the mother, was born near Mt. Carroll, Ill. The Showalter family came to Sedgwick county, Kansas, in 1876, and located on a farm in Gypsum township, where the father bought 320 acres of land, which is still in the family. Samuel Showalter died in 1904 in Wichita, and his wife now resides there in the home he bought prior to his death. This home is modern and commodious, very much in contrast to the one built on the old homestead in 1876, which was 12x16 feet, and in which they lived eight years.

George Showalter, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the country schools of Sedgwick county. His parents were very desirous that he should have a college education, and then take up the profession of law, but he chose farming and stock raising instead, in which he has made an unqualified success. He owns 1,200 acres in Pleasant township, which is one of the best farms in the county. It is well improved with a modern home, large barn 44x80 feet, silo 14x30 feet, with ten foot basement.

Mr. Showalter was married, in 1894, at Wichita, to Loretta Estella Swindell, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of Joshua Swindell, who came to Kansas in 1880, and settled in Pleasant township. Her mother was Gula Wilson, prior to her marriage. She was a native of North Carolina. Mrs. Showalter has three brothers living, as follows: Roscoe, Adolphus and Ernest. Mrs. Showalter's father came from Indiana to

Arkansas, and from Arkansas, he came to Butler county with an ox team, and had twenty-five cents when he got here. He used oxen for several years after he came. Their first home was 14x16 feet, in which they lived ten years. Mrs. Showalter's father came with a mule team, as he thought horses could not live here then.

Mr. and Mrs. Showalter are the parents of nine children, all of whom are living at home, as follows: Floyd C., William E., Gracie L., Gula B., Roy E., Earl L., Worth L., Edna A. and Leburn G. Mr. and Mrs. Showalter have worked hard, and their efforts have been crowned with success. Mr. Showalter has three sisters, all graduates from Kansas State Normal, and all of whom were very successful school teachers in Butler and Sedgwick counties.

**James H. Church** was an early settler in Butler county, and is now a prominent farmer and stockman, and has contributed his share to the stock business which has made Butler county famous. Mr. Church was born in Champaign county, Ohio, in 1848, a son of R. W. and Mary (Reece) Church, natives of New York. There were seven children in the Church family, only one of whom, besides James H., is now living, Mrs. Nancy Long.

James H. Church was only three years old when the family removed to Iowa. This was in 1851. He grew to manhood in that State and was educated in the public schools. In 1870, he came to Kansas and settled in Bloomington township, Butler county. He was engaged in farming and stock raising here about eighteen years, when he returned to Iowa, and after remaining here ten years he came back to Butler county in 1899. This time he settled in Walnut township, where he bought a quarter section of land, five miles southeast of Augusta, and has since been successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising and is one of Butler county's most substantial citizens. Although still undeveloped, Mr. Church's land lies in the rich oil and gas field in the vicinity of Augusta, and the mineral value of his property, at the present time, baffles the knowledge of the most skilled expert, as there are some large producing gas wells in the immediate vicinity or adjoining Mr. Church's place.

Mr. Church was married in 1877, to Miss Mary E. Sherwood, a resident of Bloomington township. She is a daughter of Martin Van Buren Sherwood, who now resides in Noble county, Indiana. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Church, only one of whom is living: Alva Reuben, born in Iowa, and now lives on the home place with his parents.

Mr. Church is familiar with pioneer methods and the real pioneer days of Butler county. When he came to this county he came by railroad to Junction City, Kans. He drove from Junction City, Kans., bringing with him three ox teams, and one team of horses. After settling in this county, he took an active part in the political organization of the county, and the promotion of its institutions. He took part in the or-

ganization of Bloomington township, and also of the Webster school district in that township, and assisted in building the first school house, which was constructed of native timber. This building was blown down by the storm in 1876, and another was built in its place, which has since been discarded and replaced by still another building. He was here when the grasshoppers came in 1874, but says that the grasshoppers did very little damage to his crops as they were grasshopper proof that year, having been already burned up by the prolonged drouth. Mr. Church has a distinct recollection of how the hungry hopper horde swept over the plains and devoured every green vestige of vegetation, and says that the approach of the millions of these insects sounded like the coming of a great storm, and at first he thought that it was a storm.

Mr. Church is a member of the Fraternal Union, at Augusta, and is one of the substantial citizens of the community, who by his industry and thrift has accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods.

**George F. Hayman**, chief engineer of the El Dorado waterworks, belongs to a Butler county pioneer family. He was born in Meigs county, Ohio, on the banks of the Ohio river, in 1858, and is a son of H. H. and Emeline (Casten) Hayman, natives of Maryland. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Mary R. Hudson, who came to Kansas with her parents, and died here in 1875, and has a son, C. F., now living in Chicago; R. H., Middleport, Ohio; Thomas, died in Ohio; Mrs. Rosa A. Fountain, died in Butler county; C. A., night watchman at the Boston Store, Wichita, Kans.; George F., the subject of this sketch; H. C., resides on the old homestead in Fairview township.

George F. Hayman was about twelve years of age when he came to Butler county with his parents, in 1870. They settled on the northwest quarter of section 34, Fairview township, where the father homesteaded a claim. One of the daughters, Mrs. Hudson, and the eldest son, R. H., also homesteaded claims. The father died in 1873, and the mother passed away in 1883. George F. grew to manhood on the old homestead in Butler county, remaining there until 1890, when he went to Ohio, and remained in that State and in Chicago, Ill., until 1894. He then returned to Butler county, and on March 1, 1894, he entered the employ of the city of El Dorado in the waterworks department, as engineer, and has had charge of that department of the system for twenty-two years.

Mr. Hayman was married January 10, 1916, to Miss Millie Barker, of Eureka, Kans., a daughter of James Barker, who died in California in 1915, and the mother now resides at Pomona, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Hayman have no children, and reside in their cosy home, 211 Griffith street.

Although, comparatively a young man, Mr. Hayman is an old settler in Butler county. In fact, he is an older settler than he is a man, for the reason that he came here when he was a boy, and had an opportunity to observe many of the early day incidents and doings when they made a greater impression on his mind than they would a more mature

person. He recalls the scarcity of food and the hardships of the pioneers, during the winter which followed the devastation of this section of the country by the grasshoppers, in 1874. During that time he recalls that a ray of hope came through the gloom of despondency to him, in the shape of a barrel of pork and a barrel of beans which were sent to him by an uncle who lived in Kentucky. The pioneers had other troubles in those days besides grasshoppers and scarcity of food. Ague was prevalent, and one thing that the early pioneers could always depend upon, no matter how uncertain the crops and the weather, and that, the chill was always sure to come at the regularly appointed time. However, the Hayman family, after suffering with the ague for several months, wrote to a doctor who was a relative of theirs, at Pocomoke City, Md., who prescribed "Fowler's Solution," which in a short time gave relief.

The early pioneers' lives were not all made up of grief, grasshoppers and ague; they had their amusements and pastimes which they enjoyed, perhaps fully as much as people enjoy what they call good times now days. They had their dances, the literaries, and other pastimes which have left bright spots in their memories.

**W. B. Poston**, a successful farmer and stockman of Butler county, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1859. He is a son of Archibald and Martha Poston, natives of Indiana. The former died in Wayne county, Indiana in 1871, and the latter died at Halstead, Kans., December 4, 1915. They were the parents of seven children, one of whom died in infancy. The others are as follows: Jacob, lives near Kinsley, Kans.; Mrs. Amy Hall, Castleton, Kans. She and her husband have fourteen sections of land near Jetmore, Kans., and are extensive stock raisers: John, unmarried, is in the mining business at Joplin, Mo.; Aurelius was a railroad man and was accidentally killed at Dodge City, Kans., in 1903; Angie died at the age of twenty-six at Halstead, Kans.

W. B. Poston was educated in the common schools of Indiana and has followed farming and stock raising all his life. He came to Sedgwick county, Kansas, March 1, 1878, with his mother, who was a widow. She had bought 160 acres there prior to coming, and the family located on this land. W. B. was the mainstay of the family and made the living. He came to Butler county in 1890 and took charge of the Jonathan Thomas farm at Rose Hill. Mr. Poston says he owed Thomas \$520.00 when he came, and he paid eight per cent. on it. He had a hard time to make both ends meet, but he paid it off by hard work and good management. He bought hogs and cattle and fed them for the market. He bought the farm of Thomas Widar, in 1912, which consists of 140 acres, adjoining the townsite of Rose Hill. He paid \$10,400 for the place, and has since improved it considerably, adding a silo and fencing the main farm, hog tight with cross fences. He buys cattle and feeds two cars each year and raises a great many hogs. He has fifty acres of alfalfa, and he says that alfalfa is the best crop grown on the farm. He fills his silos usually with kafir corn, but says Indian corn is the best for that



MR. AND MRS. W. B. POSTON



MORRIS B. POSTON



EDITH J. POSTON

purpose. "The main thing in any line of business is to know the details of it, and hustle," says Mr. Poston, and he thoroughly understands his line.

Mr. Poston was married November 24, 1887 to Lydia Morris, of Valley Center, Kans. Her parents are both deceased. Her father, David Morris, was a native of Kentucky and died in Missouri. Her mother, Rebecca Kemper, was born in Indiana and died in Marion county, that State.

Mr. and Mrs. Poston have two children, as follows: Morris, a graduate of Emporia College. He also attended Chicago University one term, taught at Bucklin, Kans., one year and one year at Ft. Madison, Iowa. At present he is attending Ames Agricultural College, and also teaching, and Edith, a graduate of Emporia College, class of 1915, and teaches Latin and English in LeRoy High School, LeRoy, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Poston are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rose Hill, Kans., and are well known and highly respected in the community.

**W. F. Benson** of El Dorado, the present Bank Commissioner of the State of Kansas, was born in North Dorset, Vt., August 12, 1859, and came to Kansas with his father, mother and brother, Fred W. Benson, in November, 1878. From 1878 to 1892 Mr. Benson was engaged in farming and stock raising with his father and brother. From 1892 to 1894 he was county treasurer of Butler county. In July, 1897 he was elected assistant cashier of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank at El Dorado, Kans., which position he held until January, 1898, when he was elected to the cashiership on the death of H. H. Gardner. He held this position until January, 1905, when he resigned and was elected active vice-president of the Citizens State Bank, which position he resigned on his appointment to the position of bank commissioner. All these years he has been engaged in farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, and at the present time, he with his son, Frank A. Benson, have one of the largest and best herds of registered Galloway cattle in the State of Kansas.

Mr. Benson was married to Miss Margaret Farley of Rome, New York, in 1880; their family of children consists of Frank A. Benson, George J. Benson, Florence Benson and Bernice Benson.

When the "Farmers Alliance" was organized, he joined this movement and was nominated by the Peoples party for county treasurer in 1892 and elected. In 1894 he was renominated by his party, but was defeated. In 1896 he was nominated by his party and endorsed by the Democrats for the office of State senator, his opponent being the late T. B. Murdock. In 1905 he was nominated by his party for State senator from that district and was again successful.

For a quarter of a century he has been identified with the Democratic party of this State. Governor Hodges appointed Mr. Benson on the Panama-Pacific Exposition Commission, representing Kansas at the

Expositions, held in 1915, at San Francisco and San Diego, California. In November, 1915, Governor Hodges appointed him State Bank Commissioner, his term expiring March 1, 1917. Mr. Benson belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias, and he also is a member of the Masons, Knights Templar and a Shriner.

**L. N. Blood**, a well known and prosperous broker of St. Louis, Mo., was closely identified with the early day settlement of Butler county. In fact, Mr. Blood was here at the beginning. He was a pioneer school teacher and merchant, and while his business activities have taken him away from Butler county for a number of years, he is not only interested in Butler county, in a sentimental way, but has always maintained important financial interests here.

L. N. Blood is a native of Michigan. He was born in Lenawee county, September 25, 1844. His parents, Leonard P. and Lucinda Polly (Williams) Blood, were both born in New York, the former, April 5, 1823, and the latter in 1824. The mother died in Iola, Kans., in 1900, and the father now resides there, at the ripe old age of ninety-three. Twelve children were born to this pioneer couple, four of whom are living, as follows: L. N., the subject of this sketch; D. P., president of the Exchange State Bank, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Anna Victors Rogers, Iola, Kans. and Clarence P., Kansas City, Mo.

L. N. Blood received a good common school education in the public schools at Morenci, Mich., and in early manhood, he taught school, during the winters, and followed farming in the summers. In 1868, he left his Michigan home, and came to Kansas. He obtained employment on the Sante Fe railroad, which was then being constructed out of Topeka to the west. Mr. Blood had charge of the iron car, laying the track from Topeka to Carbondale, and remained in the employ of that company until August, 1869, when the road was completed as far west as Carbondale. He then came to Butler county, and located at Augusta, which was then a small village of only a few houses. Here, Mr. Blood was engaged to teach the first school in that town. The building where the school was held is still standing, and was the first store building in Augusta, a mercantile establishment being on the first floor, and the school on the second. The school room was furnished in the most primitive fashion. A slab with the smooth side upward, attached to the wall by wooden brackets, served as a desk for the pupils, and the seat consisted of long wooden benches, and thus when the pupils were at work, they faced the walls, with their backs to the center of the room. The same room, in which the school was held, also answered for the purpose of a church and lodge room. Mr. Blood had about forty pupils enrolled, and an average attendance of about thirty. The postoffice was kept in the storeroom below, and Mr. Blood was also assistant postmaster, and helped in the store in dealing out salt pork at fifteen cents per pound, corn at \$2.50 per bushel, and salt at \$10 a barrel, when he was not dispensing knowledge on the second



floor. In the broad range of its commodities, this institution equalled the modern department store, or a mail order house. During that time, the stage was scheduled to reach Augusta at 2 a. m. The stage driver would blow his horn at the bend of the river, as he approached the town, and Mr. Blood, as assistant postmaster, would have to hustle out and sort the mail, and turn over to the stage driver, the outgoing mail, and then return to dreamland.

In the spring of 1871, Mr. Blood engaged in the mercantile business for himself at Augusta. His store was located on State street, about opposite where the Edison store now stands. He was engaged in business here for twelve years, and in 1883, went to St. Louis, Mo., where he has since been engaged in the brokerage business, his operations being confined, principally, to municipal bonds. In 1874 Mr. Blood bought 480 acres of land in the Walnut river valley, near Gordon, which he still owns. This is very valuable land, the character of the soil in that locality being very rich and productive, and in addition to its agricultural value, it is in the recently developing Augusta oil and gas field, and is underlaid with rich deposits of oil and gas. At this writing there are six flowing oil wells, and eight more being drilled on Mr. Blood's place.

Mr. Blood was united in marriage, July 2, 1871, to Miss Leonora M. Bellamy, of Augusta, Kans. Mrs. Blood was a pioneer milliner of Augusta. She was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, in 1849, a daughter of James and Lucy P. (Judd) Bellamy, natives of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Blood have no children.

Mr. Blood was in Butler county and in the vicinity of Augusta during the most interesting pioneer period of Butler county, and saw much of this section of the country during these pioneer days. Since he removed from Butler county and located in St. Louis, scarcely a year has passed but what he has visited Butler county on one or more occasions. He will always have a tender spot in his heart for the memory of the early days here, and he takes a pride in the development of this county, and the rank that it holds among its sister counties of the State.

**Clark Haskins**, of Augusta, is a venerable old gentleman who bears the distinction of having been a pioneer of two States. He is a native of Vermont, and is a descendant of New England stock. He possesses the liberty loving spirit of his New England ancestors, the same spirit that actuated the early settlers of New England to seek a home in a new country, where limitations of conscience were not known. Clark Haskins was born in Loveland county, Vermont, in 1831, a son of Ezra and Phoebe (Grandy) Haskins, natives of Vermont. They were the parents of the following children: Weltha; Sarah; Charity; Elizabeth; Clark, the subject of this sketch; Edward, who died while serving in the Union army, during the Civil war; John; Edwin, who was a soldier in the Union army, during the Civil war; Edmond, was a Christian minister, and served in the United States Navy during the Civil war, and Edgar, served in the Union army during the Civil war.

Clark Haskins went to Iowa in 1855, and settled on a claim of Government land in Madison county. This was at an early day in the settlement of that section of Iowa. He was engaged in farming there when the Civil war broke out, and in 1864, he enlisted in Company A, Third regiment, Iowa cavalry, serving until the close of the war, or about eighteen months, when he was mustered out of service and honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa, and in 1872, came to Kansas, locating in Walnut township, Butler county. Here he entered 240 acres of land, and later bought additional land, at one time 110 acres and another forty acres, and still another 150 acres. When he first settled in Walnut township, he built a small cabin on his claim, which served as the family home for twelve years, when he built a substantial residence. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, and during his Butler county career, has given special attention to the cattle business. He has not only raised and fed cattle for the market, but has been an extensive cattle buyer as well. Mr. Haskins has not only been a financial success, but his influence has always been for the moral and civic betterment of his community and county; and he is of that type of men who will leave his impress on the future civilization and development of Butler county.

Mr. Haskins was married, in 1865, to Miss Almera Purdy, of Muscoda, Wis., and a native of Vermont. She is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Haskins were born the following children: Charles; Mrs. Lydia Findley, Kettle Falls, Wash.; Frank, Seattle, Wash.; Will, Vancouver, B. C.; George, died at the age of thirteen, and Herman II., living on the home place.

Charles Haskins, the eldest child born to Clark, and Almera (Purdy) Haskins, was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1858. When a boy about fourteen years of age, he came to Walnut township, in 1872, with his parents. He was reared and educated in Butler county, and has made farming and stock raising his principal occupation. He now owns and operates 150 acres of land, adjoining his father's place in Walnut township, and ranks as one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Butler county. He was married, in 1884, to Miss Gertrude Bruce, and three children have been born to this union: George, Charles and Herbert.

**J. R. Crowley**, of El Dorado, is one of the large land owners of Butler county, and has been very successful in farming and stock raising. He was born in Barren county, Kentucky, in 1865, and is a son of S. R. and Mary (Burgess) Crowley, natives of Tennessee. They were the parents of ten children, nine of whom are living, as follows: W. B. Seneca, Mo.; J. R., the subject of this sketch; S. J., Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Mary Elrod, El Dorado, Kans.; Dicie, unmarried, resides at Augusta, Kans.; I. M., Rock Creek township, Butler county; R. L. Burden, Cowley county, Kansas; W. S., Burden, Kans.; and Mrs. Ora Rhoades, Gordon, Kans.

J. R. Crowley received a good common school education in his native State, and at the age of sixteen years, left home and came to Kansas. He drove a wagon here for his board, coming with Taylor Haines, who settled on the Walnut river, three miles south of Augusta. After coming to Butler county, Mr. Crowley worked about a month on the railroad. He then entered the employ of J. W. Kibby, and worked for him eight years and three months, receiving for his services \$15 per month at first, and later \$20. He saved his money, and at the end of the above stated period, he entered into partnership with his former employer, and this arrangement continued for nine years. Mr. Crowley then engaged in farming and the cattle business on Hickory creek, Bloomington township. He was one of the extensive cattlemen of the county, and bought, fed, and sold cattle on a large scale. In 1913, he bought his present home in El Dorado, where he has since resided. He also owns a home in Augusta.

Mr. Crowley was married in 1895, to Miss Flora A. Tague, of Bloomington township. She is a daughter of M. M. and Mary (Whitham) Tague, natives of Indiana, who came to Butler county in 1881, and settled in Spring township, and they now live in Bloomington township. To Mr. and Mrs. Crowley have been born five children, as follows: Hazel Irene, a graduate of the El Dorado High School, class of 1916; Marietta, a member of the senior class, El Dorado High School; Flora Verna, student in the El Dorado High School; John R. and Frances Andine, students in the El Dorado graded schools. The Crowley family reside in El Dorado during the school years, and spend the summers on their ranch in Bloomington township.

Mr. Crowley is a member of the Masonic Lodge, of El Dorado, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America at Augusta, and the Anti Horse Thief Association, in Bloomington, and Mr. and Mrs. Crowley are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Crowley family is well known in Butler county, and Mr. Crowley is one of this county's substantial and prosperous citizens.

**Peter Fostnaught**, a prominent farmer and stockman, of Benton township, is a native of Indiana, and a son of Moses and Sarah Fostnaught. The father was the farmer and died there in 1865. The mother died in 1905. Peter was the only child by his mother's first marriage, and after his father's death, she married a man named Wolf. Three children were born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Sarah Blair, who lives in Michigan; Sherman Wolf, lives in Indiana, and Adam Wolf, lives in Michigan.

Peter Fostnaught came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1879, and at first worked as a farm hand for \$15 per month, and about ten years later, rented land, and engaged in farming on his own account. During his first years in Butler county, Mr. Fostnaught labored under many difficulties, and had a hard time to get a substantial start in life. He had no capital, but he was industrious and thrifty and possessed a

determination to succeed. Not unlike the experience of the average man, after he got a little start, success soon followed, and today he is one of the well-to-do farmers and stockmen of this county. He owns one of the best farms in Benton township, consisting of 240 acres, well improved and an ideal stock farm.

In 1880, Mr. Fostnaught was united in marriage with Miss Anna Miller, a daughter of John P. and Kate Miller. Her father was a native of France, and came to this country with his parents early in life. He died in Illinois, and in 1875 the mother came to Kansas with her children, and preempted 160 acres of land in Benton township, Butler county. There were six girls in the Miller family, as follows: Mrs. Mary Long, deceased; Mrs. Susan Cole, Kingman county, Kansas; Mrs. Kate Hammon, Greenwich, Kans.; Mrs. Rosa Lane, Benton, Kans.; Ada F.; Mrs. Lydia Campbell, deceased.

After Mrs. Miller and her girls came to Kansas, they endured many hardships and privations, common to the lot of early settlers during the formative period of the West. But the experience of the Miller family was more difficult than that of their neighbors. There were no men in the family, and the heavy work of the fields fell to the girls and their mother. They all did the work of men, and bravely struggled to build a home in the new country, and were glad to have an opportunity to do so. The girls all grew up to be women of force of character, and an honor to American womanhood. The mother was a capable woman, and the possessor of high ambitions, and a spirit of industry. She possessed the courage of the typical pioneer woman. On one occasion while fighting a prairie fire which threatened to destroy her home, she was so severely burned that she nearly lost her life. Prairie fires were frequent in the early days, and, during their first year here, the Millers lost their hay in one of those periodical devastations of the plains. Another incident in the life of Mrs. Miller worthy of mention here, is that when she was a young woman and lived in Illinois, she was at one time in the employ of Abraham Lincoln, and was well acquainted with the great emancipator and his family.

**A. C. Neal**, a well known farmer and stockman of Benton township, came to this county when a mere boy, and belongs to one of the pioneer families of Butler county. Mr. Neal was born in Indiana in 1861, and is a son of J. W. and Christina Neal, both natives of Indiana. The father was a farmer in that State until 1865, when he went to Missouri with his family, driving across the country from Indiana. They located in Johnson county, Missouri, remaining there until 1872, when they came to Kansas and settled in Sumner county, and in 1877 went from there to Sedgwick county. In 1883, the Neal family came to Butler county, locating in Benton township where the father spent the remainder of his life, engaged in farming and stock raising. He died in 1909 and the mother now resides on the home place with A. C., who has never married. The father was an invalid for a number of years and thus A. C. Neal has

been the mainstay of the family from early boyhood. J. W. Neal, the father, was a native of Kentucky and early in life removed from his native State to Indiana, where he was married to Miss Brougher, a daughter of Jacob and Isabel Brougher, natives of North Carolina and of German descent.

A. C. Neal was only eleven years old when the family came to Kansas, in 1872, and therefore as a boy, he saw much of the pioneer life of this section of the State. In those days the children shared in the hardships and meager advantages of the new country. After coming to Kansas he worked for 35 cents a day and earned his first dollar binding wheat, which dollar he lost out of his pocket a few days later while threshing. This seemed to him to be quite a loss at that time, and his financial loss really could not have been greater, for that was all he had. His first investment was the purchase of a colt, for which he paid \$13.50, and later sold for \$95, which was the turning point of his luck, and since that time he has met with a fair measure of success.

When the Neals first settled in Sumner county, that section of the State was considered well on the borderland of civilization and the primitive conditions of the plains largely prevailed. There were lots of deer and antelope and buffalo could still be found in large herds only seven or eight miles away. Mr. Neal recalls with a shudder the first buffalo that he ever saw. He was out herding cattle on the open range with his Indian pony and the buffalo bull appeared on the horizon and made a wild charge into young Neal's herd of cattle. The boy had never seen a buffalo before and was sure that the devil was after him and his cattle. His Indian pony was a faithful little animal but young Neal knew that he was not speedy, so in order to make time he dismounted and ran home, which was about a mile away. Mr. Neal is a modest man and is not inclined to be unreasonable in his claims, but he is sure that if that mile had been officially recorded that it would go on record as the fastest mile ever made by a white man. He had many experiences in the early days, but this one is the prize winner.

**J. W. Parsons**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Sycamore township, is one of the very earliest settlers of Butler county, now living within its borders. Mr. Parsons is a native of Ohio, born in 1848, and is a son of Amos and Ruth G. (Barnes) Parsons, natives of Maryland. They were the parents of the following children: Josiah Barnes Parsons, Cassoday, Kans.; B. A. Parsons, Potwin, Kans.; and J. W., the subject of this sketch.

J. W. Parsons came to Kansas in 1866 and settled in Butler county and homesteaded 168 acres of land in Sycamore township. This was a very early day in the settlement of that section of the county and at that time the settlers had to haul their supplies from Westport where Kansas City is now located. Mr. Parsons made two trips there with an ox team, the round trip requiring more than a week, and during these trips he has frequently slept alone on the plains with howling wolves

about him during the night. When Mr. Parsons came to Butler county the native wild animals of the plains were here in abundance. The buffalo disappeared from this section of the State, going farther west, about the time that Mr. Parsons settled here. However, he saw one herd of buffalo in Butler county after he came. Indians frequently roamed over the plains and the noble red man was noted for stealing pigs, chickens, etc., an inherent trait of his character usually overlooked by American historians. After coming here Mr. Parsons broke prairie with six yoke of oxen. He built a small log cabin and only had enough roofing to cover one corner of it. However, this sufficed for his residence for three or four years. He was in poor health when he first came to Kansas, but recovered shortly after coming here.

Mr. Parsons was married in 1881, to Miss Bessie Davis and three children were born to this union: Mrs. Elsie Grant, Rosalia, Kans.; Mrs. Irene Hunn, El Dorado, Kans.; and Mrs. Ruth Diller, Burns, Kans. The mother of these children died in 1891, and in 1894 Mr. Parsons married Ella Miller, daughter of Robert Miller and Catherine (Kyle) Miller, the former a native of Dublin, Ireland, and the latter of Scotland. The Miller family came to Butler county in 1876. Robert and Catherine (Kyle) Miller were the parents of the following children: James, a Presbyterian minister; Robert, Jetmore, Kans.; Allan, Jetmore, Kans.; Mrs. H. W. Hinkle, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. James Teter, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Glick Scribner, El Dorado, Kans.; and Ella, the wife of J. W. Parsons, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Parsons' father died in 1914 and the mother is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Parsons have been born the following children: Esther, Wesley, Russell, Katherine and J. B.

Mr. Parsons is a Republican and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. The Parsons family is well and favorably known in Butler county where they have a broad acquaintance and many friends.

**H. C. Bates**, a Civil war veteran, like many others in serving through the Civil war, had developed within him that trained courage and spirit of adventure which so well qualified him for the task of playing his part in the opening up and developing of the then wild and unbroken West. H. C. Bates is a native of Michigan, born in 1837, a son of Vrelon and Eunice (Wilhelm) Bates, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of New Jersey. The Bates family consisted of four children as follows: H. C., the subject of this sketch; Charles F., Dexter, Mich.; Mrs. Emma Litchfield, Dexter, Mich., and Mary A., unmarried also resides at Dexter, Mich. H. C. Bates was reared in Dexter, Mich., and received a good common school education, considering the times and conditions, and after leaving school was employed in the great lumber industry in his native State. His peaceful pursuit, however, was interrupted when the call to arms was heralded in 1861. At the president's call for 75,000 volunteers to defend the Union, Mr. Bates enlisted in Company K, Fourth Michigan infantry, and remained in that branch of the military service about a year, and after serving his time he en-

listed in the navy at Erie, Pa., and was a soldier of the sea for two and one-half years. He participated in a number of the important naval engagements of the Civil war, having served under Admiral Farragut.

At the close of the war Mr. Bates was mustered out at Memphis, Tenn., and after receiving an honorable discharge, returned to Michigan and re-engaged in the lumber business. He owned a mill at Dexter, which he sold in 1870, and came to Kansas, first locating in Franklin county. Shortly afterwards, he came to Butler county, locating in Augusta township, where he took up a claim on the southwest quarter of section 9, range 27, township 4, and still owns this place to which he has since added additional acreage. An unusual thing in the history of Mr. Bates' original claim is, that it has never gone through a single transfer since he received his title from the Government, and this is the only place, between Towanda and Augusta, of which that can be said. Immediately, upon locating in Butler county, Mr. Bates began farming in a small way, after the plan of the average pioneer, but increased his operations rapidly and soon became one of the extensive farmers and stock raisers of his neighborhood, and is today one of the prosperous and well to do citizens of Butler county. In October, 1910, at the close of a period embracing forty years of successful activity, he came to Augusta and purchased three lots upon which he built a commodious and comfortable residence which is his present home.

Mr. Bates was united in marriage at Dexter, Mich., to Miss Nettie Negus, a native of that place, and a daughter of Vermont, parents, who settled in Michigan at an early date. Mrs. Bates is a sister of Col. E. L. Negus, who served with distinction in the Civil war, and it is recalled that the severity of loss which his regiment suffered at the battle of Gettysburg is almost without parallel in the annals of the Civil war. Of his 1,126 men who answered at roll-call in the morning before going into action, only 138 were present at roll-call the following morning. One child has been adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Bates, William, who resides at Augusta. He married Maud Beaver, an Augusta girl, and to them have been born four children, as follows: Harvey, Blanche, Lena and Frank. While Mr. Bates was not one of the first settlers of Butler county, he came here at a time when many of the early pioneer conditions prevailed, and has seen the great development from that time to the present Butler county with her prosperous citizens and progressive institutions. When he came here the nearest railroad was at Emporia, and he remembers when there were only seven houses in Wichita. Many changes have taken place within the lifetime of this sturdy pioneer.

**James W. Teter.**—Butler county is far famed for its high standard of cattle, and back of this reputation of this section of the State is the industry and ability of the successful cattlemen. The cattle business is a big industry and requires business men of big mental caliber, as well as almost unlimited resources to get the best results and build up a national reputation for a county, such as the leading cattle men of this sec-

tion have done for Butler county. "Jim" Teter is one of the big cattlemen of Butler county, and like many other successful men, he started with nothing and the progress that he has made in the business world is due wholly, to his own unaided efforts.

James W. Teter was born in Upshur county, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1849, a son of John and Lucinda (McCoy) Teter. The Teter family was poor and they came to Kansas in 1865 from Iowa, having driven the entire distance from West Virginia to that State, and from there to Kansas. They first located in Coffey county in this State where they remained until 1869 when they went west as far as California and Oregon, but in the course of a few months returned to Butler county, settling at Cassoday, or where Cassoday is now located, which was then called Sycamore Springs and three years later came to Prospect township. The father, John Teter, was a typical pioneer, a big hearted, stalwart man, noted for his physical strength and endurance and he belonged to that type of men who were absolutely unconscious of danger. He was a cattleman and one of the pioneers of that industry of Butler county and met with considerable success: He died in April, 1904, his wife having passed away five years previously. They were the parents of eight children, two boys and six girls. The boys were: Washington, who died at his home in El Dorado in 1915, and "Jim," whose name introduces this sketch. Four of the girls are now living.

When the Teter family settled in the vicinity where Cassoday is now located that was a wild, unbroken and sparsely settled country. Deer and antelope were plentiful and small game of most every kind was in abundance. However, Jim Teter says, he was never much of a hunter, although he has chased bobcats and wolves over the Flint Hills with his hounds when he was a boy, but his brother, Washington, won quite a reputation as a hunter in the early days. He killed a great many deer and bears in his time, and hunted buffalo and other big game, making several hunting expeditions to the Rocky Mountains and even to old Mexico.

Jim Teter received his education mostly in the rough and ready school of experience and has always been a student of men and affairs. He has studied conditions and reasoned from cause to effect, and today is one of the capable business men of Butler county and has met with well merited success. When the family first settled in Butler county great numbers of Indians were almost constantly passing through this section of the country and when Jim Teter was a boy he traded a rooster to an Indian for a pony. He says this was the beginning of his business career. He has always been a stockman and specializes in white faced cattle and he and his sons, who are associated with him, now have on hand about 800 head and at times have had as many as 1,400. Mr. Teter is an extensive land owner and owns about 1,200 acres in Butler county and 6,000 acres in Greenwood county. His home place, which is located about two miles from El Dorado contains 850 acres. He fol-



lows general farming in connection with his cattle business and raises large quantities of grain and hay which he feeds, and frequently has to buy considerable more for his cattle.

Mr. Teter was married in 1888, to Miss Mary Marshall and six children were born to this union, as follows: Ora, married Charles Mattle, Butler county; Hattie, married Robert McCully, Butler county; Letha, married Oliver Morley, Butler county; John, at home; William, and Merle, live in Greenwood county. The wife, and mother of these children, died November 19, 1890, and Mr. Teter married for his second wife, Miss Louise Ladd. Two children were born to this union: Gladys, now the wife of William Spencer, Kansas City, Mo., and James, resides at home. Mrs. Teter died October 9, 1904, and Mr. Teter married Miss Sadie Miller and they have three children: Ruth, Elden and Helen.

Mr. Teter is inclined to be independent in his political views, supporting public measures which meet with his approval and candidates whom he deems best qualified for the office which they seek. Mr. Teter is public spirited and progressive and also ready to cooperate with any enterprise for the betterment of his county or State.

**H. W. Becker**, a Civil war veteran who, for a number of years, has been a prominent farmer and stockman, of Chelsea township, and an active factor in the political affairs of Butler county, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in the historic town of Gettysburg, in 1840, a son of John D. and Sarah (Smith) Becker. John D. Smith was born in Baltimore, Md., July 2, 1816. He learned the tanner's trade in early life at which he was employed for a number of years, but later was engaged in farming. He was of German descent. His wife, Sarah Smith, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania.

H. W. Becker was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and spent his early days on the home farm, and in 1862, enlisted in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, under Col. William J. Palmer, who later became a brigadier general, and after the war, became a very wealthy man. Mr. Becker took part in many of the important battles of the Civil war with his regiment. He was at Antietam, Stone River, and was with Serman on his march to the sea, taking part in all the battles of this campaign, and, in fact, the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry saw as much service as any other regiment in the army. Mr. Becker has a map which shows the marches and engagements in which this regiment took part, and it seems as though it covered the entire fighting zone of the Civil war. The Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry holds an annual reunion at Philadelphia, Pa., and the members of this famous fighting organization of the Civil war have always kept in very close touch with each other.

Mr. Becker was married, in 1867, to Miss Margaret Shelly, a native of Pennsylvania, and of German parentage. To Mr. and Mrs. Becker have been born six children, as follows: Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, Dennis, Kans.; Mrs. Edna McMillen, Leeton, Mo.; Mrs. Elsie Cameron,

El Dorado, Kans.; K. S., El Dorado, Kans.; W. S., DeGraff, Kans., and Margaret, El Dorado.

Mr. Becker came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1884, and settled in Chelsea township, where he bought 160 acres of land, and engaged in farming and stock raising in which he was successful, and has become one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of the county. His son, K. S., owns 240 acres of land, and lives with his father, and supervises the operation of both farms.

For a number of years, Mr. Becker was one of the best posted men on local political conditions to be found in Butler county. He gave his allegiance to the Republican party, and was a tireless worker in its behalf. For years he never missed attending a Republican county convention, and was generally a delegate. He was one of the four Republicans of Chelsea township who could always be depended upon to maintain the organization in that township. They were the old guard. Mr. Becker had the distinction of being the best local political forecaster in northern Butler county, and for years, was able to forecast the outcome of local elections with great accuracy. He is one of Butler county's substantial citizens and a highly respected gentleman of the old school.

**L. N. Brooks**, a progressive farmer and stockman of Prospect township, is a native of Missouri. He was born in Harrison county of that State, September 15, 1883, and is a son of G. W. and Jane (Willis) Brooks, both natives of Harrison county, Missouri. In 1884, when L. N. Brooks was one year old, the family came to Kansas, locating in Greenwood county, where they remained three years, when they went to Colorado, where the father was engaged about eighteen months in farming and stock raising. He then returned to Greenwood county and two years later, went back to Colorado. After spending two and a half years in Colorado, he went to Sedgwick county, Kansas, remaining there until 1907, when he came to Butler county, locating in Douglass township where he now has 320 acres of land, and is successfully engaged in farming and stock raising.

G. W. and Jane (Willis) Brooks were the parents of the following children: L. N., the subject of this sketch; Laura Ellen, resides at home; Arthur, Mulvane, Kans.; Jay, at home; Ervin, Ida and Wilbur, all at home.

L. N. Brooks remained at home and assisted his father until he was twenty-one years of age, when he engaged in farming on his own account in Sedgwick county, Kansas, and was thus engaged for three years when he went to Cowley county, remaining there two years, when he returned to Sedgwick and, after remaining there three years, went to Elk county. He remained there but a short time, however, when he went to Greenwood county and spent one season. He then came to Butler county and for a time lived southeast of Augusta, and in September, 1914, bought a 320 acre farm in Prospect township, where he is exten-

sively engaged in raising grain and alfalfa, and is also quite extensively interested in the cattle business. Besides his farm in Prospect township, he owns 240 acres in Greenwood county.

Mr. Brooks was married in 1906 to Miss May Winters, a native of Sedgwick county, Kansas, and a daughter of J. W. Winters who now resides in that county. The Winters family came from Illinois to Kansas and settled in Sedgwick county several years ago. To Mr. and Mrs. Brooks have been born five children, as follows: William Lloyd, Ernest Clyde, Neva Mildred, Everett Harold and Gerald Winters.

Mr. Brooks belongs to that type of young men who are destined to succeed in their undertakings. When he sees an opportunity, he recognizes it.

**G. H. Ryan**, a successful farmer of El Dorado township, is a native of Indiana. He was born in LaFayette, Ind., in March, 1861, a son of W. A. B. and Malinda (Williams) Ryan. G. H. Ryan received a good education in the public schools of Indiana, and in 1883, came to Kansas, locating in Butler county, where he has since been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising.

In 1906, he bought 300 acres of land in El Dorado township, five miles southwest of El Dorado. Nearly all his farm is composed of rich, productive bottom land, and is one of the valuable farms of Butler county. Mr. Ryan is one of the extensive alfalfa growers of Butler county, and has been very successful in the production of that crop, and now has about 100 acres devoted to alfalfa, and he also raises about 100 acres of corn annually, and has gone quite extensively into the production of sweet clover.

Mr. Ryan was married in 1884 to Miss Nina Mendenhall, a daughter of W. J. Mendenhall, of Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Ryan six children have been born, as follows: I. W., Columbus, Kans.; Bertha, Philip W., Helen, Marian and Grace, all residing at home. The Ryan family is well known in Butler county and prominent in the community where they reside. Mr. Ryan is one of Butler county's substantial citizens who has made a success of his undertaking, and is justly entitled to recognition among the leading men of this county.

**N. W. Wilcox**, of Glencoe township, belongs to that type of sturdy pioneers whose courage, foresight and industry built up the great West of today. He was born in New York in 1856, and is a son of William W. and Cordelia A. (Merritt) Wilcox. The father was a native of New York and spent his life in that State, engaged in horticultural pursuits. The Wilcox family is of English descent. The mother, Cordelia A. Merritt, was also a native of New York, and was one of a family of nineteen children, fifteen boys and four girls.

N. W. Wilcox is one of a family of five children, as follows: Eugene H., De Kalb, Ill.; Mrs. Harry A. Wilburger, De Kalb, Ill.; Benjamin, South Bend, Ind.; Norman W., the subject of this sketch, and C. A., Leon, Kans. Norman W. Wilcox and two brothers, Charles and

Eugene, came to Kansas from Illinois in 1878, driving the entire distance with a team and wagon, and N. W. pre-empted a claim in Glencoe township, Butler county. The country was new at that time, and there was not even a wagon track across this claim when he came here. Mr. Wilcox had his household goods shipped to El Dorado by rail, and after erecting a little one room shack on his claim, he went to El Dorado and got his furniture, which consisted of one old fashioned bedstead, which had been in the family for over a hundred years, and three chairs. He made the table, which he says, was a masterpiece of cabinet workmanship, and began life in his one room cottage. There was not so very much room in the house but he had the consolation of knowing that out of doors was not crowded in the least, in those days. There was plenty of room on the broad plains, in fact more room than anything else.

Mr. Wilcox was married in 1880 to Miss Nellie Weast, a daughter of William Weast, who came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1870, and pre-empted a claim near Quito. They were early settlers in that section and when they located there, there was but one house between Quito and El Dorado. Mr. Wilcox says, when he met his future wife that it was a case of love at first sight. They were married at the bride's home, a pioneer cabin on the plains, and are still sweethearts. To Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have been borne the following children: F. E., Ralph C., Evaline, Mrs. Grace Hemanover, J. B. W. and Emma H., all of whom reside in Leon.

When Mr. Wilcox came to Butler county, he started with very little capital. After he had succeeded in getting a team of horses, he had the misfortune to lose one of them and had but one blind horse left. If he proposed to remain in Butler county and work his claim, he must have another horse, for he couldn't break prairie without a team. He succeeded in trading a cow, a hog and thirteen chickens for another horse, and thus was equipped to proceed with his pioneer farming, and in spite of prairie fires, droughts and hot winds of the early days, he has met with uniform success as a farmer and stock raiser, and is now one of the substantial and influential farmers of Glencoe township. He takes quite an interest in local political affairs, and has served as clerk and treasurer of his school district. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**W. C. Ward**, a successful farmer and stockman of Butler county, is a native of Indiana. He was born in 1864, and is a son of James F. and Narcisus (Timmons) Ward. The father is a native of Indiana and the mother of Maryland. James F. Ward came to Kansas in 1869 and settled in Butler county. He was one of the very earliest settlers of this section of the State, and when he came here El Dorado was only a small hamlet with two or three stores.

W. C. Ward has spent practically all his life in Butler county, and has seen this section of the State develop from a broad, unbounded waste

of unbroken prairie to its present high standard among the counties of the State of Kansas. Mr. Ward has made general farming and stock raising the chief occupation of his life and has been very successful in this line of endeavor.

Mr. Ward was married in 1907, to Miss Lulu Oxford, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of William Oxford who now resides in that State. Mr. and Mrs. Ward have one child, Charles.

A mere boy when he came to Kansas, W. C. Ward has seen much of the pioneer life on the plains. He has seen devastation wrought by prairie fires, storms and floods and passed through all the lean and uncertain years of the early days in Butler county, and while he received a good common school education in the public schools, his greatest schooling has been, like many other successful men, in the hard school of experience. He is a practical man, a close observer and has ever been a student of men and affairs, and is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county.

**Fred H. Young**, of Rosalia township, is one of the substantial and well-to-do farmers and stockmen of this county, who has contributed his part to making Butler county the far famed agricultural district that it is. The Young family were early settlers in Rosalia township where the father was a successful farmer and stockman for many years, prior to his death. The mother now resides on the home place with Fred H., the subject of this sketch.

Fred H. Young is one of a family of seven children, born to his parents, as follows: George, served as sheriff of Butler county and was marshal of El Dorado for a time, now resides at Harrisonville, Mo.; Charles S., conducted a blacksmith shop in El Dorado and was superintendent of Butler county's poor farm for a number of years, now resides in El Dorado; W. L., lives at Beaumont, Kans.; Fred H., the subject of this sketch; A. G., resides on the home farm with Fred H.; Mrs. Mary C. Pyle, Towanda, Kans., and Mrs. Carrie R. Brickley, Leon, Kans.

Fred H. Young and his brother, A. G., own and operate 460 acres of land in Rosalia township. They are extensive stock raisers, as well as successful and representative farmers. They produce large quantities of corn, alfalfa and kafir corn, and rank among the leading farmers of that section of Butler county. The Young family are among the very early pioneers of eastern Butler county, and are all good substantial citizens.

**H. K. Chesebro**, a leading farmer and stockman of Glencoe township, is a New Englander. He was born in Connecticut in 1844, and is a son of Jesse and Abby (Davis) Chesebro, both of whom were born and reared in Connecticut. The Chesebro family is of English descent, and was founded in this country by William Chesebro during the Colonial days. H. K. Chesebro was the only child born to his father's first marriage. After the death of his first wife, the father married Mary Pinker-

ton and to this marriage were born the following children: Eugene H., Decatur, Ill.; Andrew C., Taylorsville, Ill., and Jesse, Kincaid, Ill.

Mr. Chesebro was married in 1870, to Miss Rebecca Smith who died in 1907, leaving five children, as follows: Ray, Decatur, Ill.; Mrs. Abbie Baldrige, Storington, Ill.; Joseph, Leon, Kans.; Floyd and Wayne. Mr. Chesebro came to Butler county in 1899 and bought 160 acres of land in Glencoe township and is one of the successful farmers and stockmen of that part of Butler county. He has one of the up to date and well equipped farms of the county, having a water system installed with a gasoline engine which furnishes power for not only pumping the water, but for various other purposes around the place. Mr. Chesebro is a natural mechanic and has a well appointed carpenter shop where he works out many of his ingenious ideas that find practical application about the farm.

While Mr. Chesebro did not settle in Butler county early enough to be classed among the real old pioneers, he has been a resident of this county for nearly twenty years, and has become identified with it in a way that the interests of Butler county are his interests, and he is a prominent factor in the development of this section of Kansas and is one of the substantial men of Butler county.

**Samuel Waldorf**, a well-known successful farmer and stockman of Prospect township, is a Butler county pioneer who for over forty-five years has been an active factor in the agricultural development and the cattle industry of Butler county. Mr. Waldorf is a native of Ohio, born in Holmes county in 1839. His father was William Waldorf and his mother bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Hensley. William Waldorf was a native of Vermont and of German descent, and his wife was a native of Harding county, Ohio, and a descendant of a sturdy Pennsylvania Dutch family. The surviving children born to William Waldorf and wife are as follows: Samuel, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary J. Cramer, Mansfield, Ohio; Mrs. Anna N. Appleman, Corsica, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah E. Wrenn, Boston, Mass.; William C., El Dorado, Kans., and Mrs. Elvira E. Gilbert, Hutchinson, Kans.

Since coming to Butler county in 1872, Mr. Waldorf has been engaged in farming and stock raising, and is still operating his fine farm of 200 acres in the southern part of Prospect township. The location of his place is ideal, and it is about equal distance to El Dorado or Augusta, and about four miles from Leon. Mr. Waldorf is one of the old time cattlemen who appreciated the days of open range, and while he is one of the successful stockmen of today, he says that the good old days before the advent of fences and the settlement of the country were the halcyon days of the cattle man, which is true, for it is really a hard matter for the cattle man of the old school who rode the open range to feel comfortable and at ease when he is confined within the limitation of wire fence from Pittsburg, Pa.

Mr. Waldorf was married in 1866 to Miss Martha L. Mitchell, of



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL WALDORF

Ohio, who was born in Marrow county. She is a daughter of Andrew and Martha Nixon (Kilgore) Mitchell, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Scotch-Irish descent. The late President McKinley was a second cousin of Mrs. Waldorf. To Samuel Waldorf and wife have been born the following children: Mrs. Ida C. Hildreth, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Mary A. Conkling, Salina, Okla.; Mrs. Millie L. Patterson, El Dorado Kans.; Mrs. Martha I. Marshall, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Musie T. Lightwine, deceased; Mrs. Georgia E. Madill, Newton, Kans.; William J., Lebo, Kans.; John M., Mulvane, Kans.; Harvey K., Harper, Kans.; Mrs. Hattie O. Mossman, Rosalia, Kans.; Samuel E., Corbin, Kans., and Barney B. M., Leon, Kans.

Mr. Waldorf is a Butler county pioneer who well remembers the early days of inconvenience and hardship incident to the settlement and development of a new country. When he came to Butler county there were no improvements. Money was scarce and there was hardly any market for what little produce the early settlers had to sell, and it was rarely they needed a market, for, in fact, they had very little to sell. There were no railroads in Butler county and supplies were mostly hauled from Emporia, and even from more distant places. Mr. Waldorf hauled the first wheat that was ever ground at the old mill on the Big Walnut river, near El Dorado, and this wheat was raised from seed which he bought with money from the sale of his only wagon, and during that winter he lived chiefly on corn bread and water. He is a typical representative of that class of hardy pioneers, who by self-sacrifice, courage and industry, not only laid the foundation for Butler county, but established the great empire of the West and in so doing, established permanent homes for themselves and their posterity, and laid the foundation for the world's highest civilization.

**M. M. Elliott**, a prominent farmer of Glencoe township, is a native of Indiana, born in 1864. He is a son of James and Florida (Hills) Elliott, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Scotch Irish descent and the latter of English lineage. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Sarah A. Crissep, La Mont, Okla.; W. A., Augusta, Kans.; J. R., Wichita, Kans., and M. M., the subject of this sketch.

M. M. Elliott is practically a pioneer of three States. He went to Iowa when very young, settling in a wild section of that State, and then came to Kansas, settling in Butler county, and about the time Oklahoma was opened up for settlement, he carried his pioneering to that State, where he took up Government land in that section of Oklahoma which later became Payne county, upon the organization of the State. He was an active factor in the organization of Payne county, and it was largely through his efforts that the name Payne was adopted for that county. There was a great fight on, to name it Stillwater county, and Mr. Elliott was one of the leaders in favor of calling it Payne, and after a hard fight Payne won. While holding down his claim in Oklahoma, Mr. Elliott frequently returned to Arkansas City, Kans., for a time, where he



worked to obtain supplies and then returned to his cabin. He endured many hardships and privations incident to life in a new country, but he was accustomed to it, having been a pioneer all his life and was not a pampered youth in his early childhood days. He says, he remembers of being put to bed on many occasions in order that his clothes might be washed. He received his training in the hard school of experience, the kind of training that develops strong character. It's the school which has graduated the men who have been the bone and sinew of this nation since its beginning. Mr. Elliott belongs to that type of men who by their thrift and industry have built up the great West and who have accustomed themselves to overcome obstacles. He is now engaged in farming and stock raising in Glencoe township, and is one of the successful men of his community.

Mr. Elliott was married in 1888, to Miss Sarah G. Blance, a native of France who came to this country with her parents, Lorrence and Clementine (Coutin) Blance, in 1876. They came to this country by way of Liverpool, England, and encountered very severe weather on the voyage, the trip requiring fourteen days from Liverpool to New York. Mrs. Elliott tells what a narrow escape her father had from losing all his money while en route to this country. He carried all his money in a belt, and while sleeping in his berth, his wife detected a thief endeavoring to take the money from the belt. She gave the alarm in time to prevent the robbery. The Blance family upon coming to this country located at Emporia, Kans., and the father suffered a sun stroke and died shortly after locating there. When he died there was no hearse in the locality of the Blance home and his remains were brought to the cemetery in a wagon for burial.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott's only child is an accomplished musician and resides with her parents and is engaged in teaching music. Mr. Elliott is well known and prominent in the community.

**Fremont Leidy**, former United States internal revenue collector for the district of Kansas, who has been one of the forceful men of the State for years, was born in Jefferson county, Kansas, April 4, 1863, the son of Abram and Martha (Stith) Leidy, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Kentucky. They both left their native States when young and were as loyal to the State of Kansas as if native to the soil. Abram Leidy was reared on a farm in the Keystone State, learned the practical branches of the vocation, and when only sixteen years of age determined to cross the mountains to the broad plains of the West and make his fortune in the new country. He first went to Texas, then to Jasper county, Missouri, and finally, about 1860, came to Jefferson county, Kansas. After his son was born, Mr. Leidy returned to Missouri for a short time, but found that the broad plains of Kansas called him and he returned there in 1870, taking up land in Butler county. During the Price raid, in the fall of 1864, he served in the State militia in defense of his adopted State.

The Leidy family passed through the first hard years in Kansas when many settlers were discouraged by drought, grasshoppers and winter frosts that reduced so many to almost a state of starvation. But they were confident in the future of the State, and time has proved that their faith was not in vain. Fremont was one of the three children born to Abram and Martha Leidy, and is a thorough Kansan, reared on his father's farm in Butler county, attended the country schools and learned farming by practical experience. He was an ambitious boy and as his father wished to give him every advantage, he entered the Fort Scott Normal School, where he graduated with the class of 1887, after attending the high schools at Augusta and El Dorado. He then accepted the principalship of the Severy schools, where he remained two years. He then took the superintendency of the Augusta schools, which he held for three years. He then entered the law department of Kansas University, Lawrence, Kans., read law in an able attorney's office at El Dorado and was admitted to practice in 1893. He at once opened an office at El Dorado, where he practiced a short time, when his health failed and the doctors advised a change. Mr. Leidy at once determined to live out doors and started to farm, which he has followed since. He has always taken an active part in local affairs and is held in high esteem by the people among whom he has lived, and who showed their appreciation of his worthy qualities by electing him to the State senate in 1900. In 1908 he was reelected to the same important office. Governor Stanley selected him as a member of the text-book commission, where he served with credit to himself and for the benefit of all the school children of the State.

On June 27, 1910, Mr. Leidy was appointed United States revenue collector for the district of Kansas, a position which he held in an able manner until the National administration changed, when his successor was appointed. In politics he has always been a loyal Republican, never wavering from the great fundamental principles of that party, and has ever been an earnest worker in its interests. He made some thirty-eight speeches in Butler county on the sound money doctrine when it was said there were only two men in the county who believed in that theory. When only a lad of twelve Mr. Leidy attended his first county convention in the company of his father, and has missed but one since that time, due to the fact that he was confined to his home by illness. He has decided views on the tariff question, is an ardent supporter of protection and many other principles of the Republican party.

Mr. Leidy is a gifted orator and an effective and forceful political speaker, clear, logical, and with an ever ready supply of statistics, to verify his position on every question and policy he supports. During his service in the State senate, no man made his influence felt more keenly or to better effect. All his life Mr. Leidy has been a student, not alone of books, but also of men, and each year sees him expanding along all lines. He is one of the native sons of Kansas of whom she should be

most proud. In July, 1893, Mr. Leidy was united in marriage with Myrtle Jenkins, of Augusta, Kans. She was born in Tennessee but came as a child of two years to Kansas with her parents. She died on July 22, 1906, leaving three children: Pauline, Richard J., and Roger. Mr. Leidy is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, but has no other fraternal affiliations.

**C. B. Dillenbeck**, proprietor of the "City Dairy Farm," El Dorado, is known not only in Butler county, but throughout the country as a breeder of thoroughbred standard trotting horses of national reputation.

Mr. Dillenbeck was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1842, and is a son of Jacob and Catherine (Ostrander) Dillenbeck, natives of New York. He was one of a family of eight children, the others being as follows: John S., died in New York; Mrs. Amanda Nellis, died in New York; Menzo, died in New York; Sophia, married a Mr. Simmerman, who was killed in the Civil war, and she afterwards married Luther Dillenbeck; and Jerome, now living retired at El Dorado.

Mr. Dillenbeck was educated in the public schools of his native State, and at the age of nineteen, enlisted at Watertown, N. Y., in Company M, Tenth New York heavy artillery. He served in the army of the Potomac, and took part in many important campaigns. He was with Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley, and was at the siege of Petersburg, and was mustered out of service at Sacketts Harbor, N. Y., in July, 1865, after having served three years.

After returning from the army, Mr. Dillenbeck was engaged in farming in New York State until 1882, when he came to Butler county, reaching here September 19 of that year, and engaged in farming, stock raising and dairying on 640 acres of land west of El Dorado, which his brother had previously bought. Later C. B. sold his interest in that farm to his brother and bought the Van Slyke farm of 320 acres, and conducted his farming and dairy business there, but lived in El Dorado a part of the time. He bought this farm for \$12.50 per acre in 1888, and ten years later, sold it for \$27.50 per acre. He also bought another quarter section a half mile south, for \$900, and sold it for \$2,000 at the time he sold his other farm.

For the last fifteen years, Mr. Dillenbeck has lived in El Dorado, where he has been engaged in buying and shipping horses, and at the same time he has been engaged in the dairying business, and his son, W. E., is in partnership with his father. They have bred and developed some very high class and valuable standard bred registered trotting horses, among some of the well known ones are: Julia D., 2:14 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Harbor Master, 2:17 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Daisy Dorff, 2:10 $\frac{1}{4}$ , and Symbol Meath, 2:07 $\frac{1}{2}$ . At the present time they have eleven head of standard bred registered horses which are undeveloped, but Mr. Dillenbeck has never yet raised a thoroughbred that was a failure. In March, 1916, he shipped three head of horses to Indianapolis, Ind., Symbol Meath,

2:07½; Daisy Dorff, 2:10¼, and Fair Margaret. While the Dillenbecks have been successful in developing thoroughbred horses, they have not neglected the pure bred cattle department of that business. Mr. Dillenbeck breeds Holstein cattle on the farm, and at present, has thirty-seven head of high grade Jerseys also. The City Dairy herd is headed by "Katimas Sultan," which is one of the best registered Jersey bulls in the State of Kansas.

Mr. Dillenbeck was married in 1865 to Miss Helen R. Visscher, of Gouverneur, N. Y. She was a daughter of William Visscher, who came to Butler county the same time that Mr. and Mrs. Dillenbeck came to this county, and he died here. His wife died in New York State, in 1863. To Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Dillenbeck were born the following children: Dr. F. E., El Dorado, Kans.; W. E., who is associated with his father in business, married Marie Olin, of Eudora, Kans., and they have three children, Helen, Charles and Doris. The wife, and mother of these children, died March 19, 1915.

Mr. Dillenbeck is one of Butler county's substantial citizens, whose efforts, since coming to this county, have been rewarded with success.

**Mrs. B. A. Russell**, now living in Logan township, belongs to that type of pioneer women who performed their part nobly and well, at a time when the great plains of Butler county offered many hardships and inconveniences and few comforts or luxuries. She can relate many interesting reminiscences of the early history of this section of Kansas, and knows what she is talking about, for she was here and received her information by experience and observation. Mrs. Russell bore the maiden name of Smith and is a daughter of William R. and Narcissa (Bagley) Smith, natives of Tennessee. Her father was a prominent farmer and stockman.

The Smith family located in Butler county in 1871, and here Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Russell were married in 1873. B. F. Russell was a native of West Virginia, or what is now West Virginia, and was born in 1832. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell: Mrs. Myrtle Sopher, who resides with her mother on the old homestead. She married L. D. Sopher in 1899, and they have one child, Russell B., born in 1900; and Mrs. Edith E. Morris, resides in Wichita. Mr. Russell died in 1899 and his remains are buried in the Fowler cemetery, and since that time Mrs. Russell has continued to make her home on the old place.

Mrs. Russell relates, with much amusement, a careless incident in her career that developed into a romance which culminated in her marriage. When a girl she threw out a bucket of ashes, from which a prairie fire started and spread for miles. Among those who were attracted by the fire, and came to render what assistance they could, was Mr. Russell, and that was their first meeting, and they were married soon afterwards. Mrs. Russell frequently saw Indians, after coming to Butler county, as they traveled back and forth considerably through this

section of the country. Mrs. Russell distinctly remembers when the grasshoppers came and ate every vestige of green in sight on the place, and about all that she had left after the grasshopper scourge, was her chickens and they ate so many grasshoppers that they all died. So one calamity followed another, but early life on the plains seemed to be made up of calamities, and the early settlers became amused with them and were really not surprised unless something good happened. And yet, hardships and failures were soon forgotten by the hardy residents of the plains, and they had many good times, and enjoyed themselves with the true spirit of innocent pleasure. A neighbor at that time was a loyal friend and always stood ready and willing to accommodate and share anything that he had, with his less fortunate brother; and the bonds of neighborhood friendship seemed to be much stronger, and human sympathy more abundant than in these days of over legislation and organized communities.

Mrs. Russell is one of the entertaining and interesting pioneer women of Butler county, and is truly deserving of due recognition in a work of this character.

**Marion W. Jones**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Rose Hill, Kans., was born in Georgia in 1859. He is a son of Hampton and Mary (Cox) Jones, natives of Georgia. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Miles, died at Rose Hill; Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, lives in Pleasant township; William, died in Texas; Mrs. Eliza Ketsler, Wichita, Kans.; John Nelson, died at Rose Hill, at the age of nineteen; Mrs. Lucinda Wells, Portland, Ore.; and Marion W., the subject of this sketch.

Marion Jones was educated in the common schools of Butler county, Kansas, and has followed farming and stock raising all his life. He came to Kansas with his father in 1865, and located first in Lyon county. In 1871, they came to Butler county, and located on Eight Mile creek in Pleasant township. The parents are both deceased. His father died in Arkansas, and his mother at Rose Hill, Kans.

Marion W., the subject of this sketch, fell heir to forty acres of land and later bought 280 acres, partly rich bottom land, and altogether he has one of the best farms in the county. He has forty acres under alfalfa. He has made a success of stock raising. His land is leased for gas and oil.

Mr. Jones was married in 1882, to Miss Ella Davis of Rose Hill, Kans. Her father, John P. Davis, came to Butler county in 1878, and settled in Richland township, and later moved to Pleasant township. Two children have been born to this union: Willie, deceased, who was accidentally killed by a kick from a horse in 1906, and Osear A., residing at home. He married Miss Gertrude Silkwater, of Rose Hill.

In 1872 a prairie fire came sweeping from the southwest, jumped Eight Mile creek, and caught George Herit, a school teacher, on the prairie, two and one-half miles east of Rose Hill. He had started to his

claim and the high wind carried the fire so swiftly that he could not escape. He was able to get to the creek opposite the Jones residence, and call for help. His clothes were almost burned off. They took him to the house and cared for him, but he died four days later.

Mr. Jones is a member of the Friends Church of Rose Hill and the Jones family is one of the representative pioneer families of Butler county.

**Bruce Alexander**, a substantial farmer and stockman and one of the representative citizens of Walnut township, is a native of Tennessee, although he came here with his parents when he was two years of age, and therefore comes within two years of being a native of Butler county. He was born in Macon, Tenn., in 1873, and is a son of Dr. E. H. and Matilda E. (Haynes) Alexander. They were the parents of seven children, six of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Nettie VanArsdall, Stillwater, Okla.; Mrs. Luella DeMoss, Stillwater, Okla.; Bruce, the subject of this sketch; W. F., Ira and Grace, all residing at home in Walnut township. Dr. E. H. Alexander came to Kansas in 1875 and located in Walnut township, Butler county, where he bought 200 acres of land, which is now the home place. He was a successful physician and practiced his profession after coming here and at the same time was interested in the development of his farm and stock raising. He died while yet a young man in 1883. His widow, who still survives him, is seventy-two years of age, and is unusually active, both mentally and physically, for a person of her age.

When the Alexander family moved here the county was wild and unsettled; there were no railroads in this section, and Bruce Alexander, the subject of this sketch, recalls many early day conditions, which made indelible impressions on his mind, when he was a boy. The old stage line from El Dorado to Winfield passed the Alexander home, and he recalls one time when a band of over 500 Indians from the reservation passed over the old stage line.

Bruce Alexander was reared on the home farm and educated in the public schools of Walnut township, and he also attended the high school at Augusta for three years. He is one of the substantial men of the community, and has an extensive acquaintance throughout Butler county. He takes a commendable interest in local political affairs, and has served as trustee of Walnut township one term. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Augusta, having been identified with that organization for the past six years.

**J. P. Colyar**, of El Dorado, is a Civil war veteran, and comes from a long line of military ancestors who have distinguished themselves in all the principal wars in which this country has been involved. J. P. Colyar is a native of Michigan, born in 1833, and is a son of John E. and Hanna (Reams) Colyar, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Michigan. They were the parents of five children, of whom J. P. is the only survivor. After the death of the mother, the father married again,

and three children of this union are living, John and Newton, who live in Oklahoma, and Mrs. Hannah Romne, Kansas City, Kans.

J. P. Colyar enlisted at Burlington, Iowa, during the Civil war, in an Iowa regiment of infantry, and during the course of his military career served in many of the southern States. He was with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea, and at the battle of Bloomington, N. C. had his collar bone broken while constructing breastworks. At Columbus, S. C., his knapsack was struck by a bullet. After the surrender of General Lee, Mr. Colyar was discharged at David's Island, New York Harbor. Mr. Colyar had thirty-two cousins from Cass county, Michigan, all of whom served in one regiment in the Union army during the Civil war. Mr. Colyar's father was also a Union soldier during the Civil war, enlisting at Humboldt, Kans., and served with a Kansas regiment until he was discharged on account of disability. His hearing was impaired, which was caused by the concussion of artillery firing. Samuel Colyar, grandfather of J. P. Colyar, served in the Revolutionary war, as did his father also, the elder Colyar having attained the rank of captain by the time the Revolutionary war closed.

J. P. Colyar came to Kansas in 1871, and settled in Chanute, his father having located there in 1850, which was a very early day in the settlement of that section of the State. Indians were numerous at that time, and there were very few settlers in that part of Kansas. In 1882, Mr. Colyar came to Butler county, while in the employment of a grading gang, constructing a railroad into El Dorado from Ft. Scott. Since coming here Mr. Colyar followed constructing, and in later years was engaged in the draying and transfer business.

In 1858, Mr. Colyar was married to Olive M. Shelton, of Shelby county, Missouri. Her parents were Griffith and (Paris) Shelton, pioneers of Shelton county, Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. Colyar have been born the following children: Mrs. Mary Virginia Lewis, deceased; Mrs. Laura J., married and resides at Ft. Scott, Kans.; Mrs. Frances M. Smith, Chanute, Kans.; J. G. Okmulgee, Okla.; W. F., Emporia, Kans.; J. H., Salt Lake City, Utah; G. W., Neodesha, Kans.

As a soldier and pioneer, J. G. Colyar has performed his part nobly and well, and is a citizen well worthy of recognition in a work of this character.

**David Landis** was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1847, and his parents moved to Indiana the same year and he was reared to manhood in that State. His parents were Frederick and Catherine (Holdeman) Landis. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom the following are living: Jerome Colwell, Allen county, Kansas; Mrs. Anna Culp, Constantine, Mich.; Mrs. Barbara Kennison, Red Key, Ind.; Mrs. Christiana Staley, Elkhart, Ind.; J. H., Valpariso, Ind.; A. J. and H. B., Chico, Cal.; David, the subject of this sketch; Jennie Colwell, Moran, Kans.

David Landis was educated in the common schools of Indiana, and



DAVID LANDIS AND WIFE



for three years was a school teacher, teaching his first school in 1866, and his last term closed March 25, 1869. He then went to Missouri, remaining two years, and returned to Indiana for nine years and came to Kansas in January, 1882. He located in Anderson county, where he remained four years. He bought eighty acres there from Andrew Caldwell, which he sold in 1885, and removed to Linn county, remaining for one year, coming to Butler county in 1887. He located in Richland township for two years, and removed to Walnut township, where he lived three years, near Hilton school house. He then removed to Pleasant township, remaining there three years, and then lived for six years in Rock township. He rented his present place and moved here in 1904, and still resides in this township.

Mr. Landis was married in January, 1872, to Marjorie Ann Wooden, of Whitley county, Indiana, and eight children were born to this union, six of whom are living, as follows: B. F., living in Jewel county; H. W., at home; Ira O., Allen county, Kansas; Mrs. Dora Briles, Richland township; David Delta, Richland township, and Irene lives in western Kansas.

Mr. Landis, while an invalid, is cheerful and a most interesting talker. Eight of the Landis brothers and sisters each write a letter once a month, and the recipient forwards the letter to another, and then the letter is sent around to the others until all have read it. Mr. Landis usually writes his the next day after receiving the letter. He is able to get to the mail box when the weather permits. Mr. Landis is one of the old subscribers of The El Dorado "Republican," and was a great admirer of the late "Bent" Murdock, who was editor of that paper for so many years.

**Charles Love**, who is engaged in farming and stock raising in partnership with his brother, J. P. Love, under the firm name of Love Brothers, is a typical representative of the progressive agriculturalist of today. Charles Love was born in Martin county, Indiana, in 1867, and is a son of J. P. and Mahala (Smith) Love, also natives of Indiana. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. E. T. Rollins, Douglass, Kans.; L. M., Syracuse, N. Y.; A. C., St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Florence Emerson, Oregon; H. C., Scotts, Saskatchewan; Charles, the subject of this sketch; J. P., Gordon, Kans.; Mrs. Nora Thompson, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Amanda Elliott, deceased, and Mrs. Adeline Hinkle.

The Love family came to Butler county in 1876, and two years later the father homesteaded a claim in Walnut township, near where Gordon is now located. One of the sons, L. M. Love, came to Kansas before the other members of the family. He came to Augusta in 1874 and engaged in the grocery business in partnership with a Mr. Freeman, under the firm name of Freeman & Love, one of the pioneer mercantile firms of Augusta. The father, J. P. Love, became a successful farmer and stockman, and was prominent in the community. He was

a good citizen and was of material assistance in the development of Butler county. He died July 5, 1893, and his widow now resides at Gordon.

Charles and J. P. Love own 360 acres of land, which are located one-half mile west of Gordon, and they also rent the Blood farm, which consists of 400 acres and adjoins their own property. They have operated that place in connection with their own farm for the past sixteen years. In addition to the well known value of farm property in Walnut township, the recent development of oil and gas is revealing a source of wealth which at this time cannot be estimated, and the Love farm is within the undefined boundaries of this great oil and gas belt. There are now two good gas well on their place, and further tests are in operation.

Charles Love was united in marriage in 1892 to Miss Eldora J. Dugan, of Gordon, Kans., and the following children have been born to this union: Walter L., a graduate of the Augusta High School, class of 1915, an employee of Blood's bank at Augusta; Ruby L., a graduate of the Augusta High School, class of 1916; Myrtle E., a student of the Douglass High School, and a member of the class of 1916, and Parkhurst L., at home with his parents. Mrs. Love's parents were Kansas pioneers. They came to Marion county in 1870, and homesteaded near Lincolnville. In 1880 they came to Butler county and now reside in Gordon.

**J. E. Hanes**, a well known farmer of Walnut township, although a young man, is numbered among the pioneers of Butler county. The fact of the matter is, that Mr. Hanes was a very young pioneer when he came to this county with his parents, being only five years of age. He is a native of Tennessee, born in 1869, a son of Thomas and Mary (Prudence) Hanes, both natives of Macon county, Tennessee. They were the parents of five children, as follows; Mrs. Martha Long, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Maggie Woods, Mulvane, Kans.; Mrs. Nora Black, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Kelly Black, deceased; J. E., the subject of this sketch. The father died in 1900, and the mother departed this life in 1899.

The Hanes family came to this county in 1874, and the father purchased eighty acres of land in the Walnut valley, Walnut township, for which he paid \$1,300. At that time there were no railroads in this section and most of his supplies had to be hauled from Wichita, a distance of twenty-four miles, although they did considerable trading at Augusta, which was a small settlement at that time. The father engaged in farming and stock raising, meeting with a reasonable degree of success. He was a good reliable citizen and a man who by his straight-forward manner and honest methods, won the respect and confidence of his neighbors and those with whom he had business relations.

J. E. Hanes, the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood on the home farm, and educated in the public schools. He was among the first to attend the first school established in that locality. The district where he attended school was known as Floral School District, No. 120.

However, he attended school before the school house was built in that district when school was held at the old Baum residence, and taught by Hattie Tremak.

Mr. Hanes recalls, among the pioneers who were here in 1874, Clark Haskins, Daniel Baum, J. K. P. Carr and George Lang, who formerly owned the Hanes farm; W. H. H. Adams, Erastus Cease and Robert Ralston. J. E. Hanes owns the old homestead, where he carries on farming and stock raising. The value of the Hanes homestead cannot be estimated at this time, as it is in the rich oil and gas belt of the Augusta field, and it is for future operations to divulge the hidden underground wealth of almost every foot of the section where the Hanes property is located. However, there has already been brought in one gas well on this property, the daily production of which is one and one-half million feet.

**Ray Hammond**, one of the progressive younger farmers of Butler county, who is making a record in the agricultural world, is a native son of Butler county. He was born in Towanda township in 1886, and is a son of Isaac and Rebecca Hammond, who were pioneer settlers of Towanda township. The family located four miles southeast of Towanda upon coming to this county. The father was a successful farmer and a good citizen. He died in Augusta in 1909, and his wife now resides in that town. They were the parents of the following children: Walter, deceased; Harry, Towanda, Kans.; Mrs. Jennie Valentine, Greeley, Colo.; Sidney, lives in Augusta township; Isaac, also lives in Augusta township; Gladys, deceased, and Ray, the subject of this sketch.

Ray Hammond was reared on the home farm in Towanda township, and after receiving a good education in the public schools, engaged in farming, operating the home place for three years. He then began farming the Shumway place, one mile south of Towanda. He is extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Herefords, and he has a fine herd. He owns 400 acres of valuable land, 160 acres of which is a part of his father's old homestead.

Mr. Hammond was married in 1907 to Miss Nora B. Shumway, a daughter of Andrew J. and Johanna Shumway, natives of Ohio, and early settlers in Towanda township, and who are now deceased. The father died in 1908 and he mother passed away in 1913.

Mr. Hammond is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Towanda, Kans., and is one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Towanda township. He is inclined to keep fully up-to-date in the application of all approved modern methods in farming, but is not a faddist.

**M. A. Wait**, a member of the board of commissioners of Butler county, is a native of Livingston county, Illinois. He was born in 1856, and is a son of W. C. and Hannah E. (Putman) Wait, natives of New York. The father died at Whitewater, Kans., in 1913 and the mother died in 1879. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Mrs.

Ida L. Stearn, Towanda; M. A., the subject of this sketch; Ella E., died in 1884 on the old homestead; Mrs. Florence A. Pace, Whitewater, Kans., and Mrs. Maggie Cozad, who resides on the old Wait homestead.

M. A. Wait attended the public schools of Illinois in early boyhood and later attended the schools of Nevada, Mo., where the family had removed. In 1871 the Wait family came to Kansas, settling in Towanda township, about one and one-half miles west of town, where the father bought a homestead right of a quarter section of land from J. W. Tucker. The place was unimproved, with the exception of a small shack, 12x16 feet, of native lumber, which the Wait family occupied as their home on the prairie during their first year in Butler county. The old building is still standing, but has long since ceased to serve the purpose of a residence. The elder Wait lived on this homestead for thirty-six years, and was a successful farmer and stock raiser. During the last few years of his life he lived retired at Towanda.

M. A. Wait is one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Butler county, and is quite an extensive feeder and has met with marked success in this branch of the cattle industry. His farm, consisting of 300 acres of well improved land, is located in Towanda township, and is one of the model farms of that section. Mr. Wait has taken a keen interest in political affairs since reaching his majority, and has served three terms as trustee of Towanda township, and in 1912 was elected county commissioner of the third district, which comprises twelve townships, for a term of four years, and is now serving in that capacity. Public affairs have always received from Mr. Wait the same careful attention and efficient management that he has devoted to his private business, and during his term as county commissioner his straightforward and business-like method of handling the business of the county has met with the uniform approval of his constituents.

Mr. Wait was united in marriage April 9, 1885, with Miss Florence L. Stevens, of Towanda, Kans. She is a native of McDonough county, Illinois, born in 1856, and is a daughter of H. Stevens and Amanda (Russell) Stevens, natives of New York. Mrs. Wait was a pioneer Butler county teacher. She was educated in the El Dorado High School, and the public schools of Santa Cruz, Cal. She taught her first school at Elm Creek district, three and a half miles southeast of Towanda. She recalls many instances of early school conditions and has pleasant memories of the old literary society which flourished in Towanda in the seventies and eighties. Here is where Judge Vol. Mooney, Judge Chris Aikman and many other men who later became well known, began their oratorical careers, and played their dramatic roles in "East Lynn" and kindred dramatic masterpieces. The meetings were held in the old Towanda school building, which was later blown away by a cyclone. While the old literary society may seem of little interest to the present generation, it occupied an important sphere in the social and literary life in those pioneer days, and its influence was far-reach-

ing and it is doubtful whether its place has been adequately filled by modern methods and institutions. Mrs. Wait has never ceased her interest in the public schools, and has always given her influence to the upbuilding and betterment of the public school system.

**J. W. Williams**, of Augusta, who for the past twelve years has been identified with Butler county, is a native of Kansas. Mr. Williams was born at Spring Hill, Johnson county, November 18, 1881, and is a son of James and Mary A. Williams, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Maryland. The father died at Augusta in March, 1913, and the mother now resides at Edgerton, Kans. James and Mary Williams were the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are now living, as follows: Mrs. Violet Schendler, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Anna McKoin, Edgerton, Kans.; Joshua, Edgerton, Kans.; Frank, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. Delila Markley, Augusta, Kans.; Mrs. A. E. Cowen, El Dorado, Kans., and J. W., the subject of this sketch.

J. W. Williams received his education in the public schools of Ohio and Johnson county, Kansas. In 1898 the family removed to Butler county and located at Keighley, where they remained one year. When a youth, J. W. Williams learned the barber trade, serving an apprenticeship at Overbrook, Kans., for three years. He then came to Augusta and worked at the plasterer's trade and cement work in Augusta and various parts of Butler county. He has worked on many of the important buildings erected in Butler county within the last ten years, including the Butler county court house, the old school building in Augusta, the postoffice building, the McKinley school building at El Dorado and R. H. Hazlett's residence there, and also the high school buildings at Leon and Rosalia and the hotel at Beaumont. Mr. Williams is is perhaps the best known man in Butler county in connection with his special lines of work.

On December 29, 1908, Mr. Williams was united in marriage with Miss Pearl Malosh, of El Dorado. Her parents were natives of Ohio and came to Kansas at quite an early date. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been born two children, as follows: James Duane and Howard Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are well known in Augusta, and have a large circle of friends.

**J. W. Smith**, of Augusta, is a Butler county pioneer who in the early days was engaged in freighting. He is a native of Tennessee, born in 1849, and is a son of James and Martha (Burkhart) Smith, natives of Tennessee. They were the parents of nine children, only two of whom are living: W. C., who lives at Seneca, Mo., and J. W., the subject of this sketch. J. W. Smith was denied the advantages of an education in his boyhood days, but attended school in later life, and even when he was forty years old went to school with his own children. By constant application, he has obtained a good education, which is today a great source of satisfaction to him, and he appreciates it more from the fact that he experienced several years of his life without an

education, and in that way came to appreciate its value to the fullest extent.

J. W. Smith began life as a freighter, hauling lead from the mines at Granby, Mo., to Sedalia, and later from Granby to Rolla. When the railroad was built between those points he and a number of other freighters were crowded out of business. He then took up freighting along the proposed line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad and managed to keep just ahead of the terminus of the railroad, and found plenty of business in the way of hauling goods from the terminus to the next town to which it was building. For seven years, while he was engaged in this line of work, he never slept in a house.

In 1875, Mr. Smith came to Butler county, Kansas, and settled six miles southwest of Augusta, where he traded a team and wagon for 240 acres of land. He has added to his original holdings and now owns 512 acres. This is one of the fine farms of Butler county and now possesses the additional value of being in the oil and gas belt, which is being rapidly developed. Mr. Smith has followed farming and stock raising for thirty years, and was also a successful stock feeder on quite an extensive scale. He prospered and made money, and is one of Butler county's substantial men of affairs. In 1908 he removed to Augusta, where he built a comfortable home, and has since resided there.

In 1876 Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Delila Golden at Seneca, Mo. Mrs. Smith is a member of a pioneer family of Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born nine children, five of whom are living, as follows: J. C., married Miss Ollie Roundtree, and resides on the home place; Harvey, married Hazel Fuller, of El Dorado, and lives near Augusta; Mrs. Cora Higgins, of Wichita; Mrs. Ola Johnson, Rose Hill, Kans., and Virgil, a student in the Augusta High School.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Masonic lodge and has been identified with that organization for over twenty years.

**Thomas J. Powell**, a Butler county pioneer, who was one of the first to respond to president Lincoln's call for volunteers and for four and a half years served his country faithfully and well, is now living retired. Mr. Powell was born near Berlin, Worcester county, Maryland, within three or four miles of the coast, April 17, 1843. His parents were James R. and Matilda (Folks) Powell, the former of English and the latter of Irish descent. They were the parents of nine children. In 1849 the Powell family left their native State and went to Ohio and in 1852 drove across the country from there to Illinois, settling in Tazewell county.

Here Thomas J. Powell lived the peaceful life of the average pioneer boy until the Civil war broke out and President Lincoln called for volunteers to defend the Union. He enlisted July 30, 1861, in Company B, Forty-seventh regiment, Illinois infantry and was mustered into the United States service at Camp Lyons, Peoria, Ill. He was one of the first to reach Benton Barracks, St. Louis, and from there went to Otter-

ville, Mo., and then, with his command, marched back to St. Louis and from there went to Cairo, Ill., then to Point Pleasant, opposite Island No. 10. From Island No. 10, his regiment was sent to Fort Pillow and from there to Pittsburg Landing. He then participated in the battle of Corinth and that fall took part in Grant's Oxford campaign, and later to Memphis, and then took part in the Vicksburg campaign. He was at the capture of Jackson, Miss., and then joined Grant's army at Vicksburg, in the meantime doing considerable scouting. His regiment was stationed at Young's Point, within ten miles of Vicksburg for a time, during which time the ranks of the Forty-seventh were badly depleted from sickness. In fact, Mr. Powell was one of the only three men in the regiment who were fit for duty. After the fall of Vicksburg, they were in camp on the Big Black River in Mississippi for a time and then went to New Orleans, later taking part in the capture of Mobile, this regiment capturing one of the forts on Mobile Bay at night. From Mobile they went to Montgomery, Ala., and then with the thirteenth corps went to help out Banks on the Red River expedition. They did considerable garrison duty after Lee surrendered. Mr. Powell was accidentally injured while in the service by being struck in the eye by a bayonet. In July, 1864, after enlisting as a veteran volunteer, he was promoted to sergeant of his company, and in the fall of 1864 was commissioned second lieutenant and in the spring of 1865, was promoted to a first lieutenant. He was discharged February 10, 1866, with a highly commendable military record, after having served four and a half years.

After the war he returned to his home in Illinois and after taking a course in business college, engaged in farming. He was married in 1869, to Miss Elizabeth Hart, a native of Illinois. Her parents immigrated to America from Ireland in the early fifties, and the father died soon after coming to this country. In the fall of 1869, after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Powell came to Butler county and located on the banks of the Whitewater in Plum Grove township. They drove from Illinois to Butler county with a team and prairie schooner. After coming here Mr. Powell filed on a quarter section in section 12, range 3, township 24, and proceeded to build his cabin and make his home in the new country. His start was slow. The first few years he met with the various obstacles common to the lot of most of the pioneers of Butler county, but after a time prosperity dawned and Mr. Powell has become one of the successful and well to do men of Butler county. In addition to the 160 acres which he homesteaded, he owns considerable city property in Whitewater.

To Mr. and Mrs. Powell have been born the following children: Julia F., born March 25, 1870, died October 24, 1873; George C., born October 16, 1871, died October 26, 1871; Lucy L., born May 7, 1873, married Joseph Wallace and lives in Arkansas; Lewis C., born May 12, 1876, lives in Butler county; Callie, born June 7, 1878, married Engene LaFever, Fort Worth, Tex.; Caroline J., born October 6, 1880, married

J. Baman of Caldwell, Kans.; Royal O., born November 14, 1882, lives in San Antonio, Tex.; Music A., born July 2, 1888, lives in Los Angeles, Cal., and Bessie H., born April 29, 1890. The wife and mother died June 21, 1903, and thus one of the noble pioneer women of Butler county passed to the great beyond.

Mr. Powell is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is a progressive Republican. He is one of the brave pioneers of the plains and defenders of the Union who will be remembered as long as gratitude remains an element of American patriotism and civilization.

**Abel Cartwright**, now living retired on his farm in Fairmount township, bears the unusual distinction of having passed the one hundred and first milestone in the journey of life, which of itself, without further inquiry, bespeaks a life of right living for himself as well as his antecedents. Mr. Cartwright comes from an old and honorable American family who were ably represented in the Revolutionary struggle by his grandfather, Christopher Cartwright.

Abel Cartwright was born in Hinesburg, Vt., November 9, 1814. His parents were Silas and Sallie (Heath) Cartwright, natives of Vermont. Silas Cartwright, the father, was a son of Christopher Cartwright, who was born in Connecticut in 1755. The archives of the War Department at Washington, D. C., contain records which show that Christopher Cartwright enlisted February 10, 1777, in Captain McCune's regiment, Col. Seth Warner's Continental regiment at Pownal, Vt. The war records also show that he applied for a pension, July 28, 1818, which was allowed, and he received the same until the time of his death, March 7, 1839. Christopher Cartwright reared a family of several daughters and two sons, Silas, the father of Abel, being one of the sons. Silas Cartwright married Sallie Heath, and they spent their lives in their native State, Vermont. Four children were born to them: Abel, whose name introduces this sketch, and three daughters.

Abel Cartwright grew to manhood in his native State, and afterwards removed to New York State, and on March 20, 1848, he was united in marriage at Plattsburg, N. Y., to Miss Adaline Hilliard. She was a native of Plattsburg, born September 4, 1828, and a daughter of Anson and Amity (Smith) Hilliard. Anson Hilliard was also a native of Plattsburg, N. Y., born in 1795, and spent his life in that locality, and died December 1, 1857. He was the son of Joshua Hilliard, who was born in Norwich, Conn., January 7, 1757. According to the records of the War Department at Washington, D. C., Joshua Hilliard served four terms of enlistment in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war, one term of which was in the marine service under Captain Smedley, and he saw service on the Continental brig, "Defense." He was at the battle of White Plains, N. Y. It will be remembered that here it was that Alexander Hamilton distinguished himself as a soldier. Joshua married Mollie Grinnell, a member of the Grinnell family known in the history of this country as a family of explorers. Captain Grinnell,





ABEL CARTWRIGHT AND WIFE

who fitted out an expedition and went in search of the North Pole, being the distinguished member of this family.

Abel Cartwright, the subject of this sketch, and his wife resided in Plattsburg, N. Y., until 1865, when they went to LaSalle county, Illinois. Here they bought 160 acres of land and followed farming until 1903, when they came to Butler county and bought 480 acres of land in Fairmount township. This is one of the fine farms of western Butler county, and makes an ideal home. To Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright have been born the following children: L. N., Whitney, Neb.; Hettie A. resides at home; Truman, at home; Silas, died in infancy; Mary E., wife of William Hallett, Elbing, Kans.; Albert H., at home; John H., deceased; Abel C., Jr., deceased, and Sherman A., Moline, Ill.

Mr. Cartwright has been a lifelong Republican and a steadfast supporter of the policies and principles of that party at all times. His life represents an unusually honorable as well as a long career, which might well be emulated by the present and future generations for the benefit of the human race, physically, mentally, and morally.

**J. B. Moore**, a prosperous farmer and stock raiser of Fairmount township, is a native son of Butler county. He was born in Fairmount township in 1875, and is the only child born to Albert and Jane (Harris) Moore. Albert Moore, the father, was born near Terre Haute, Ind., in 1843, and when about twelve years old went to Iowa with his parents, who settled in Mohaska county. They were very early settlers in that section of Iowa, going there in 1855. Jane Harris, mother of J. B. Moore, was born in Illinois, a daughter of John and Nancy Harris, who went to Iowa when she was a child.

Albert Moore and Jane Harris were married in Iowa in 1870 and the following spring drove through from that State to Butler county, Kansas, with a yoke of oxen and wagon. They brought with them all their earthly possessions, which consisted of the emigrant outfit and a few chickens and a pig. The pig and chickens were hauled in a cart behind the regular wagon. It required three weeks to make the trip. When they reached Butler county they homesteaded a quarter section in Fairmount township, which is still the family homestead. During a part of the first summer they lived in the wagons in which they made the trip until they were able to build a small house, which in turn was replaced a few years later with a modern farm residence. Mr. Moore bought additional land, which he added to his original homestead, and became a very prosperous farmer. He died in 1900.

J. B. Moore, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the old homestead in Fairmount township, and attended the district schools. He obtained a good common school education and later attended the Wichita Business College for two years. Mr. Moore was married in 1902 to Miss Nora Worline, a daughter of Marion and Harriet (Eyestone) Worline, the former a native of Delaware county, Ohio, and the latter of Illinois. Marion Worline was a son of Abraham and Susan (Wor-

line) Worline, who, although they bore the same name, were not related. They were both natives of Pennsylvania. They were the parents of ten children, nine of whom were born in Pennsylvania and one in Missouri.

When Marion Worline was a young man he went to Fayette county, Illinois, and there met Harriet Eyestone and they were later married. She was a daughter of Martin and Nancy (Loche) Eyestone. The father was born in Germany, but of Welch ancestry, and was brought to America by his parents when he was a child, and they settled in Fayetteville, Ill., where the parents died. Shortly after their marriage, in 1870, Marion Worline and his wife removed to Missouri, and after spending one winter with Abraham Worline, they came to Kansas in 1871 and settled in Butler county and took a homestead in Fairmount township on the northeast corner of section 2, where they engaged in farming and stock raising, and added to their original homestead until they owned 200 acres of land. Mr. Worline became well-to-do and was one of the influential men of the community. He took an active interest in local political affairs, but never aspired to hold political office. He died in 1914 and his widow now resides on the old homestead in Fairmount township. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Mrs. J. B. Moore is the eldest. She was born in Fairmount township in 1874. This will be remembered as grasshopper year, and the Worline family, as well as the other early settlers, suffered greatly from the devastation wrought by these pests of the plains, who devoured and destroyed everything in sight that year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Moore bear the distinction of belonging to two of Butler county's old pioneer families. Mr. Moore is a staunch Democrat, and has always advocated and supported the principles of that party.

**William T. Davis**, a prominent farmer of Clifford township, is one of the oldest living pioneers of Butler county and has been a witness to the great transformation that has taken place here in the last forty-eight years. Mr. Davis was born in Lewis county, Kentucky, March 18, 1841, and is a son of Thomas and Susan (Cottingham) Davis, the former a native of Virginia and of Irish descent, and the latter a native of Maryland and of Scotch ancestry. The parents were pioneers of Kentucky, and eleven children were born to William T. Davis' parents, of whom he was the eighth in the order of birth. The Davis family migrated from Kentucky to Missouri in 1848 or 1849 and located in Jackson county. After remaining there four or five years they removed to Vernon county, where the father died, after which the mother came to Kansas and spent the balance of her life with her sons, Dr. J. V. and W. T., of this sketch. She died in 1884.

W. T. Davis came to Butler county from Vernon county, Missouri, in 1868 and homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 15, in the Congressional township, which was later called Clifford. He built a log

cabin on his claim, overlooking what was then known as Davis creek and now called the Whitewater. Mr. Davis was unmarried and lived in his cabin on the plains alone. There was now and then a claimer's cabin to be found here and there, but they were few. Thomas L. Fenner and W. H. Avery were his neighbors, but they were a long distance away. The winter of 1868 and 1869 is memorable in the history of Kansas for its Indian uprising and rumors of threatened Indian raids were frequent; in fact, that is about the only kind of news they had in those days. On one occasion some Paul Revere of the plains notified the settlers of approaching hostile Indians, but overlooked Mr. Davis, and while all the other settlers fled to safety he continued to live on, ignorant of his impending fate. Some days before that he had borrowed a plow of Avery, and after plowing his garden, drove over to Avery's place with the plow and found that the door of Avery's cabin was barred and the place deserted. Thinking that Avery had gone to Emporia, a distance of sixty miles, for supplies, which was not unusual, and seeing that Avery's own garden needed plowing, Mr. Davis proceeded to plow it and then took the plow back home with him. But Avery had gone away on account of the Indian scare, and when he returned he told Davis that those Cheyenne Indians were not such bad fellows after all, for they had plowed his garden while he was gone.

The summer of 1868 was dry and the settlers raised little or no crops, and they were hard up the following winter, which was a hard winter, with considerable snow. One day a stranger came to the Davis cabin and said that the trail was so badly drifted that he would like to stay over night. It proved to be Col. William F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," who at that time was a Government scout and engaged in watching the movements of the Cheyenne Indians, who were making hostile demonstrations. Mr. Davis entertained the famous Indian scout with the best that his table afforded. He had no meat of any kind, but having a supply of meal and flour, he gave his honored guest all the biscuits and johnny cake that he wanted.

When Mr. Davis came here buffalo were plentiful in the locality where he homesteaded, and he has seen a great many herds northwest of his claim, and deer and prairie chickens were in abundance for several years after Mr. Davis settled here. He was something of a hunter in the early days and made several trips or hunting expeditions over the plains still farther west. While on one of these expeditions southwest of Wichita, he and his two companions, after they had gone into camp one night, heard the warwhoop of a band of hostile Indians, who seemingly had located them, and the hunters proceeded to throw up earthworks and fortify themselves for the impending assault. After they had completed their fortifications they decided that on account of the vast number of Indians they would move farther west. They traveled all night and the Indians did not pursue them, so they escaped once more. The Indians were numerous in this section when Mr. Davis

settled here, but most of them were friendly nuisances. They were great beggars, but never did any great amount of harm.

Mr. Davis was married in 1874 to Miss Henrietta Dean, a daughter of Culbertson and Elizabeth (Myers) Dean both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of English and Irish and the latter of Holland-Dutch descent. Culbertson Dean was a son of Daniel Dean, who removed from Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1847. Elizabeth Myers came to Illinois with her parents when she was fourteen years old. The Dean family came to Butler county in the fall of 1868 and homesteaded on the Whitewater and afterward went to Cedar Point, where the father died in 1873. The mother now resides at Whitewater at the advanced age of eighty-three. To William T. Davis and wife have been born three children, as follows: W. I., Martha Alma and George.

Mr. Davis has been engaged in farming and stock raising ever since coming to Butler county, excepting two years, from 1873 to 1874, when he was engaged in the drug business in partnership with his brother, Dr. J. V. Davis, at Cedar Point, Kans. He owns 160 acres of land and is in comfortable circumstances. Mr. Davis has been a witness to many of the history making events of Butler county and he is entitled to no small amount of credit for the part that he has played in the development of the "State of Butler."

**Joseph P. Liggett**, a pioneer stockman and farmer of Butler county, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Zanesville, in 1846. He grew to manhood in his native State, and when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in an Ohio regiment and served until the close of that great conflict. He then returned to Ohio and was married to Mary Jane Tucker, also a native of Ohio. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Liggett remained in Ohio until 1870, when they went to Missouri, and the following year, came to Butler county, Kansas. They drove through from Missouri with a team and prairie schooner, camping nights on the trail. When they reached Butler county, Mr. Liggett pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 6, Clifford township, and proceeded to make a home for himself and his family in the new country. In those days times were hard, and money scarce, and Mr. Liggett frequently worked out by the day to get money, with which to support his family. He has worked many a day for fifty cents.

After passing through the first few years of uncertainty and meager returns, he began to prosper, and in 1885, bought 140 acres more land, and about five years later, added still another eighty to his holdings, and now owns 320 acres of well improved and valuable land, which he and his eldest son, J. M., operate in partnership. They are extensively engaged in general farming, and give special attention to the feeding feature of the stock business, handling on an average of about 400 head of cattle annually, however, they have fed as high as 700 head in one year. They sometimes buy their feeders on the Kansas City markets, and sometimes they buy in the country, conditions determining

which course to pursue. The Liggetts thoroughly understand the cattle business, and as a whole, their business has been very profitable, and yet they have sometimes, as have all other cattle men, fed at a loss.

The Liggett ranch is an ideal location for the cattle business. It is situated on a gentle slope, overlooking the old Wilcox place, which was famous in the early days as one of the largest cattle ranches in this section of the country. J. M. Liggett, the junior member of this firm, is one of the prominent stockmen of this State. He is a member of the Kansas Live Stock Association, and takes a prominent part in the annual meetings of that organization.

J. M. Liggett was married, in 1888, to Miss Mary J. Ferrier, a daughter of Thomas L. Ferrier, and three children have been born to this union: Edna, deceased; Jessie and Bernice. Mr. Liggett's second marriage took place, in 1901, to Miss Pearl Cretsinger, daughter of John J. and Josephine (Clark) Cretsinger, natives of New York, the former of Erie county, and the latter of Niagara county. The father was born May 24, 1856, a son of John and Barbara (Rushman) Cretsinger, both natives of Germany, who came to this county with their respective parents, when they were children. Mrs. Liggett's father, John J. Cretsinger, left New York when he was about twenty-five years of age, and went to Flint, Mich., where he was married to Josephine Clark. She is a daughter of Sylvester Clark, a native of New York, and a son of Pendleton Clark, in whose honor the town of Pendleton was named. To Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Liggett has been born one child, Josephine Milford, who is now thirteen years of age, and gives every promise of a brilliant future as a vocalist.

J. T. Liggett has spent several years in California recently, and now spends a great deal of his time in Peabody, where he has extensive interests.

**A. J. Barker**, a Civil war veteran and Kansas pioneer, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Schuyler county September 3, 1844, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Stephenson) Barker. William Barker was a native of Virginia and of English descent. He was an early settler in Schuyler county, Illinois, where he received a government land grant for having rendered meritorious service in the Black Hawk Indian war. The Barker family were well known cutlery manufacturers in England.

A. J. Barker was one of a family of ten children. He spent his early life on the pioneer farm in Illinois, engaged in the peaceful pursuits of the average boy of his time. Before he was eighteen years old, on July 19, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Fifteenth regiment, Illinois infantry, under Colonel Moore. His command was attached to the army of the Cumberland under General Thomas, and Mr. Barker participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Buzzards Roost, Buzzards Roost Gap, and was captured at the latter place and kept prisoner with 8,000 other

Federal soldiers and two weeks later was paroled. He served throughout the war with distinction and was discharged with an enviable military record, June 11, 1865, on account of the close of the war, lacking eight days of serving three years. He saw much hard service but has never regretted the sacrifices that he made on the march, under fire or in Confederate prisons, that the Union might triumph over her vanquished foes.

After receiving his discharge from the army, Mr. Barker returned to Illinois, where he was married in 1867, to Miss Elizabeth Bean, a native of Illinois of Kentucky parentage. Mr. Barker and wife remained in Illinois, where they engaged in farming until 1870, when he sold his farm of eighty acres at a good profit and he and his family came to Kansas, locating in Brown county. He bought eighty-five acres of land there and from time to time, bought additional land until he owned 303 acres. In 1895, he sold his Brown county property for \$25,000 and came to Butler county and bought 480 acres of land in Milton township, which he later sold at a profit and bought 400 acres, to which he added 120, and afterward bought 240 acres more in Oklahoma.

Mr. Barker has been extensively engaged in the cattle business and has met with marked success in that industry and in addition to his general farming and stock operations, he has been a money loaner for over twenty years and is very heavily invested in farm mortgages. His career has been one of unusual success which he largely attributes to the fact that he has always followed the policy of sticking to his business. In 1910, Mr. Barker retired from active business and gave each of his children 160 acres of land, but this act of generosity by no means impoverished him as he has enough of this world's goods left to properly classify him among Butler county's wealthiest citizens.

**J. L. Kimberlin**, of Clifford township, belongs to one of the pioneer families of Butler county, coming to this county with his parents in 1870, when he was six years of age. He is a son of M. D. L. and Winifred (Hourigan) Kimberlin, both natives of Kentucky. The mother was born in Mariou county, and was a daughter of James and Susau Hourigan. James Hourigan was a native of Ireland and a Kentucky pioneer. He was the first man to plant an orchard in Marion county, Kentucky. M. D. L. Kimberlin was born in Washington county, Kentucky, in 1824, of Irish and Scotch ancestry. John Kimberlin, his father, was a Kentucky pioneer, settling in that State, not far from the date of Daniel Boone's settlement there.

M. D. L. Kimberlin came to Kansas in 1870, and after spending about a year in Bourbon county, came to Butler county in 1871, and bought a quarter section of land upon which he built a two story house, 20x36 feet, which was considered one of the finest houses in that section at the time. He had more capital than the average pioneer of that time. He had been a tobacco raiser while in Kentucky, and had made considerable money there. Shortly after buying his first quarter sec-

tion here, he bought an additional quarter, and at the time of his death in 1886, he owned a half section of land and was fairly prosperous. He died about the time that the development of Butler county had really begun, and was thus denied the privilege and pleasure of seeing his faith in Butler county fully verified. When he came here, he built his house exactly on the old trail leading from Emporia to the Southwest, and after that the trail made a circuitous route around the place. In the early days, great herds of cattle were driven over this trail from Texas and New Mexico to Kansas City. Old Plum Grove was quite a frontier town then, and had a general store, a blacksmith shop and a saloon, and the cowboys and cattlemen generally camped in this vicinity with their herds, and now and then, after some of them had a plentiful supply of the "oil of joy," they would celebrate the event by shooting up the town of Old Plum Grove in true frontier style. Most of the land in that section at the time was what was known as speculator land, and a great deal of it was owned by Mr. Potwin, after whom the town of Potwin was named, who had bought this land for thirty-two cents per acre.

J. L. Kimberlin was born in Washington county, Kentucky, February 1, 1864, and was one of a family of eight children. After coming to Kansas he grew to manhood, surrounded by the primitive pioneer conditions and had very little opportunity to obtain an education. However, he has been a student all his life and an extensive reader, and is what might properly be termed a thoroughly self educated man, and is one of the best posted men on current events to be found in Butler county. In early life he followed the cattle industry on the open range, more or less, and has been a cowboy in New Mexico and Texas as well as Kansas, and has an interesting stock of reminiscences of the early days and happenings on the plains when he was a boy. One of his first business enterprises was herding hogs for the neighborhood, long before the days of fences. He herded a drove of 400 hogs one season for \$12 per month in the early seventies. Another one of his early boyhood enterprises was trapping and shooting rabbits and prairie chicken which he shipped to St. Louis in considerable quantities, which developed into quite a profitable business and the money, which he received in this way, gave him his first real start in life. He invested it in calves, and gradually developed quite a herd. He worked some at the stone mason's trade in the early days, building cellar walls for the settlers, and for a time, rented land and carried on the stock business, and later he and his brothers, Frank and George, bought a half section of land, going into debt for most of the purchase price, which they paid in six years. When they divided their interests, J. L. got the southeast quarter of section 33, which is now a very well improved farm. He is one of the successful fruit growers of Butler county, and has a fine apple orchard as well as an abundance of small fruit. He finds the fruit industry to be profitable and much to his liking in connection with his



other work, and always finds a ready market for his fruit of all varieties. He has made careful study of horticulture, and uses the most modern methods of spraying and caring for his trees generally. Mr. Kimberlin has perhaps the best barn in Butler county. The plan of it, which is entirely his own, is unique in many ways. The building is 56x40 feet with a circular roof, with every convenience for handling grain and hay. His place is well equipped with other farm buildings, affording the most modern and scientific methods of farming.

Mr. Kimberlin was married to Miss Minnie Van, a daughter of J. G. and Evelyn (Adams) Van, the former a native of Missouri, and the latter of Illinois. J. G. Van was a son of William Van, a native of England who was one of the earliest settlers of Butler county and who homesteaded near where Towanda now is. Mrs. Kimberlin was one of a family of six children. Mr. and Mrs. Kimberlin have a wide acquaintance in Butler county, and are well and favorably known.

**Ed C. Varner**, one of the most conspicuous men in the development of the Augusta gas and oil field, is a native of Illinois. He was born in Jackson county in 1867, and is a son of Jesse V. and Olive (Orr) Varner. The father was a native of Washington county, Ohio, born in 1828, and a son of Joseph and Martha (Drumm) Varner, natives of Ohio. He died in 1904. The mother, Olive Orr, was a native of Mahoning county, born in 1837, a daughter of Russell and Eleanor (Winans) Orr. She is one of Butler county's pioneer women and now resides in Augusta.

Ed C. Varner came to Kansas with his parents when a boy eleven years of age. He received his education in the public schools of Illinois and in Butler county after coming here. He was reared on his father's farm and as a boy became familiar with general farming methods and stock raising. He began farming on his own account in 1891, and in 1894 bought a farm, upon which he has lived for eleven years. In the fall of 1902, he bought the northeast quarter of section 17, Walnut township, for which he paid \$2,600. He bought the place from Merle Karnahan and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising, and by his industry and good business judgment has met with success and profited.

While Mr. Varner was more successful as a farmer and stock raiser than the average man, his real success, which made his name familiar to the oil producing world from one end of the country to the other, came with the development of the Augusta field, which today is the mecca of the oil investors and producers of the country.

Mr. Varner owns 285 acres within the oil belt, and the first gas well brought in on his place was on April 28, 1914, and there are now five good producing gas wells, besides several offsets. The first oil well brought in on Mr. Varner's place was on July 12, 1915, and there are now ten producing oil wells, some of the best in the country, located on his property. The last one brought in was on May 24, 1916, and as a producer far excels any well in the district up to date. The most con-

servative estimate of the production of this well places it at 7,000 barrels per day.

Ed Varner's brother, Frank, is also a large land owner in the Augusta oil and gas district, owning 277 acres upon which there are now ten good producing oil wells, and in all fairness to the Varner brothers, and to others interested in the Augusta oil fields, it can be said that the Varner brothers were prominent factors in bringing about the deep tests in this district, which have been so prolific in production to date. The original intention of the operators of this district seemed to contemplate gas production only, but Ed and Frank Varner insist that deeper tests should be made than those contemplated before leasing their properties. The world knows the result.

Ed C. Varner was united in marriage at Augusta, September 23, 1894, to Miss Ona Carr, daughter of D. M. and Nancy (Dobbins) Carr, both deceased. The Carr family located at Augusta in 1882. To Mr. and Mrs. Varner have been born five children, as follows: Ethel, was graduated from the Augusta High School in the class of 1916; Ralph, a student in the Augusta High School, and member of the class of 1917; Chester, in his second year in the Augusta High School; Cecil, a student in the grade school of Augusta, and Velma.

Mr. Varner is a conscientious man, and his business methods have always been straightforward and candid, and he has the absolute confidence of his fellowmen with whom he has had dealings, and the friendship and well wishes of his many old friends and acquaintances.

**Joseph Mead**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Plum Grove township and a veteran of the Civil war, is a native of Delaware county, New York. He was born February 26, 1844, and is a son of Jabez and Lucetta (Nickason) Meade, natives of New York and of English descent. When Joseph Mead was a child, the family removed to Michigan and settled on a farm in Kalamazoo county. There were nine children in the Mead family. The parents spent their lives in Michigan.

Joseph Mead served in Company C, Sixteenth regiment, Michigan infantry, during the Civil war and experienced much hard service. His command served in the Army of the Potomac under General Grant. At the siege of Petersburg, he was one of a small detachment that became separated from his regiment and for five days, while endeavoring to get back to his regiment, he was without food, however he came upon his regiment one morning just as they were at breakfast which was a very opportune moment for a hungry soldier to join his comrades. After the surrender of Lee he participated in the Grand Review at Washington and later was discharged at Jeffersonville, Ind., and mustered out at Detroit, Mich.

After the war Mr. Mead remained in Michigan and followed lumbering to some extent. In the winter of 1878 he took a contract to cut 300 cords of wood and in order to fulfill his contract he and his men were compelled to work in snow, four feet deep, and had to shovel the tim-

ber out of the snow. They endured much hardship that winter, which led Mr. Mead to the conclusion that if there was any other place on earth where snow and winter weather were not the dominant features of the climate he wanted to see what it looked like. With that end in view he bought a ticket to Hutchinson, Kans., where some friends of his lived at that time. That section of the State seemed a little too treeless to a man from the woods of Michigan, and after looking around considerably he found a location to his liking in Plum Grove township, Butler county. He had very little capital and at first invested in a small tract of land upon which he built a small house, and later he bought eighty acres of land on Diamond creek, making a payment of \$10.00 and going in debt for most of the purchase price. He raised a big crop of corn the first year, which gave him a good start, and he now owns 200 acres which is one of the best farms in Plum Grove township.

Mr. Mead was married in 1871, to Miss Hattie Thair, a daughter of Orleus Thair, a native of New York and a pioneer of Michigan. To Mr. and Mrs. Mead have been born the following children: Henry, Butler county; Joseph R., Butler county; Maude, married Samuel Thomas, Butler county; Lily, married Elias Eckhardt, Oklahoma; Frances, married Joseph Wilson, Butler county; Matty, married Rowe Ullem.

Mr. Mead is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Masonic lodge, and is a Democrat.

**John H. Poffinbarger**, a Civil war veteran who is now a prominent farmer and stock raiser in Plum Grove township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Ross county, April 30, 1844, and is a son of John and Sorrenia (Simmerl) Poffinbarger, both natives of Ohio, the former of German and the latter of English descent. John H. was the eldest of a family of three children. When he was six years of age, the family migrated from Ohio to Illinois, locating in Cumberland county. They left their native State on Christmas day in 1850. The father died a short time after the family settled in Illinois and the mother married again and soon afterward the family removed to Missouri, where John H. grew to manhood.

He was yet a mere boy of sixteen when the Civil war broke out, but even at that early age, he enlisted in the home guards and in December, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-third regiment, Missouri infantry, serving under Capt. John Fisher and Colonel Robison in General Prentice's division. They were first engaged in northern Missouri against the Confederate guerillas which infested that section of the State. Later they were transferred to the army of the Cumberland, going by boat from St. Louis down the Mississippi and up the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. They reached Shiloh just in time to participate in that memorable engagement. They disembarked at six o'clock on Saturday evening and the battle began at daybreak on Sunday morning, before many of the soldiers had breakfast. The battle raged all day but darkness ended the conflict, only for a time, to be resumed at daybreak

the following day which was ended at noon by a Union victory. Mr. Poffinbarger was severely wounded about six o'clock on the evening of the first day, being struck on the hip by an ounce ball. He remained all that night and until noon the next day on the field where he fell, when almost exhausted from loss of blood, pain and exposure, he was removed to a field hospital and later sent to a hospital at Louisville, Ky. He remained there about a year when he was transferred to a hospital at Gallipolis, Ohio, remaining there another year. He finally recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital but still carries the effect of that great conflict, in which he nearly gave his life to the cause of the Union. He was finally discharged on account of disability and went to his old home in Ross county where he remained with an uncle about six months, during which time he was under the care of a physician, and later went to Cincinnati where he remained in the hospital until he recovered. After returning to Harrison county, Missouri, he went to Vernon county, that State, where he remained three years.

On June 17, 1866, Mr. Poffinbarger was united in marriage at Kickapoo, Kans., to Miss Rebecca Jeffries, a daughter of Mathias and Margaret (Miller) Jeffries, natives of Ohio, the former of Fayette county and the latter of Clark county. Mrs. Poffinbarger was one of a family of six children. When she was ten years old her parents removed from Ohio to Harrison county, Missouri, and settled in the neighborhood where Mr. Poffinbarger's people had settled. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Poffinbarger resided in Vernon and Platt counties, Missouri, until 1870. In the fall of that year they came to Butler county, Kansas, and homesteaded a quarter section of land on Four Mile creek in Plum Grove township. At that time there was not even a trail across their claim and only three families lived on Four Mile creek and surrounding country. Here they engaged in farming and after passing through the pioneer struggles of the first few years prosperity came and in a short time, Mr. Poffinbarger bought another quarter section of land and has continued to add to his homestead until he now owns 560 acres of some of the best land to be found in Butler county. His place is well improved with good farm buildings, and is an ideal stock farm. Mr. Poffinbarger is not only an extensive stock raiser and farmer but one of the successful feeders of this section. He has conducted his business in a way that bespeaks for him marked business ability and keen foresight.

To Mr. and Mrs. Poffinbarger have been born the following children: Charles P., Butler county; John H., Jr., on the home place; Warren, Butler county; Fannie, married B. O. Graham, St. Louis, Mo.; James, Butler county, and Grace, married Clyde Harper, El Dorado, Kans. Mr. Poffinbarger is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is a Republican, although he has never sought political office.

**Philip Smith**, a Civil war veteran and early settler of this county, has been a successful farmer and stock raiser of Plum Grove township

for a number of years. He was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, May 17, 1841, and is a son of Adam and Mary Ann (Shoemaker) Smith, both Pennsylvanians, the former a native of Northumberland county, and the latter of Westmoreland county, and of Holland descent.

Philip Smith was reared on the home farm in Armstrong county. He was one of a family of eight children, and is now the only surviving member. The old homestead in Armstrong county, which Mr. Smith has visited four times since coming to Kansas, is still in the family, now being owned by a son of his oldest brother. Philip Smith and two of his brothers served in the Union army during the Civil war. J. E. enlisted July 4, 1861, in Company D, Sixty-second regiment, Pennsylvania infantry, and served in the army of the Potomac, at first under Gen. George B. McClellan. W. A., a younger brother, enlisted in October, 1864, serving in the Seventy-eighth regiment, Pennsylvania infantry, until the close of the war. On August 14, 1861, when he was a few months past twenty, Philip Smith enlisted in Company B, Seventy-eighth regiment, Pennsylvania infantry. His command was attached to the army of the Cumberland under General Thomas at first, and after joining the army at Pittsburg, Pa., he went to Camp Nevin, near Louisville Ky., and from there to Bacon creek, Knolluns, Green River and Bowling Green, Ky., and then to Nashville, Tenn., and guarded railroad bridges and other property in that vicinity, and went from there to Murfreesboro and participated in the battle of Stone River. They then participated in the battle of Chickamauga, and his regiment was the first to cross Lookout Mountain on their way to the battlefield at Chickamauga. After that battle, they fell back to Chattanooga, and remained there until May 3, 1864, when they joined Sherman on his march to Atlanta and from Atlanta to the sea. After the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Mr. Smith's regiment was sent back to Chattanooga with General Thomas' army to guard supply trains to Sherman's army, and they operated back and forth between the base of supplies and Sherman's army during that campaign. They were detailed in squads of about twenty soldiers to each train and had many interesting and exciting clashes with rebel guerillas who were harassing the Union supply trains. After that campaign they went from Chattanooga to Nashville, where the Seventy-eighth regiment embarked on a steamboat, and went up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Pittsburg and from there to Kittanning, Pa., where Mr. Smith was discharged and mustered out of service, October 4, 1864.

After the war, Mr. Smith engaged in farming in Armstrong county within three miles of his first place. He remained there until 1878 when he came to Butler county, Kansas, where his brother, J. E., had located in 1871, and had taken up a homestead. Here he settled on section 23, Plum Grove township, and later bought a half section of land which he still owns. He paid \$8 per acre for this farm, which, at a conservative estimate, is now worth \$75 per acre. Mr. Smith has followed

stock raising quite extensively, and has been successful in raising cattle and hogs. He has been quite an extensive feeder, which has proven very profitable. He began in Butler county with very little capital, and is now one of the well-to-do men of the community.

On March 16, 1865, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Susanna Wise, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Jacob and Katherine (Holden) Wise, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Holland descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the following children have been born: Cora, married S. A. Markee, Plum Grove township; Clara, married R. M. Poe, Potwin, Kans.; J. E., Potwin, Kans.; Minnie, married R. L. Fowler, Marion county, Kansas; Edward, El Dorado, Kans., and Homer, Potwin, Kans.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is commander of Potwin Post No. 377. He is a member of the Evangelical Church at Potwin. Although he has never taken an active part in politics, he has supported the policies and principles of the Democratic party, and has served as township trustee three terms, and has been a member of the Potwin council, two years. Mrs. Smith died August 11, 1914. Mr. Smith is now living retired, and is one of Butler county's most substantial citizens.

**Benjamin T. Freeman**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Lincoln township, is a Kentuckian. He was born in Robertson county, Kentucky, May 9, 1859, a son of Benjamin and Miranda (Williams) Freeman, natives of Virginia, the former of English and the latter of Scotch descent. When Benjamin T., the subject of this sketch, was a baby, his parents removed from Kentucky to Illinois, settling about fifteen miles north of Springfield, where the father died in 1860. The mother then returned to Kentucky with Benjamin T., who was her only child. She spent the remainder of her life in Kentucky and died at Bracken.

When he was seventeen years of age, Benjamin T. Freeman went to Missouri, locating at Kansas City, where he spent six years, most of which time he was employed by farmers in Jackson county, Missouri, in the vicinity of Kansas City. He had saved some of his earnings by economy and good management, and in 1883 came to Butler county. He came with W. H. Irwin, whose daughter he later married. They drove through from Kansas City to Butler county, and when they were passing through the Flint Hills, Mr. Freeman remarked that that was the poorest country he had ever seen, and when they reached the Walnut Valley, Mr. Irwin asked him how he liked that country, and he said that looked better. They came to El Dorado where they purchased some supplies, and then went to Mr. Irwin's place, which he had purchased the previous year, on the West Branch of the Walnut. Mr. Freeman worked for Mr. Irwin for two years and in 1886, he was united in marriage with Miss Ida E. Irwin, daughter of W. H. and Catherine (Yost) Irwin, natives of Kentucky.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman rented a farm, and later bought a half section of land in section 23, Lincoln township, to which he has added another quarter, and now owns 480 acres which is one of the best farms in Lincoln township. Mr. Freeman has been offered \$100 an acre for part of his land. He raises hogs, cattle, alfalfa, and grain, and has made it a rule never to sell any grain or feed from his place, as he finds it more profitable to feed cattle and hogs and rely solely upon that source of income, which he has found to be very satisfactory.

To Mr. and Mrs. Freeman have been born the following children: Miranda C., resides at home; Bonnie E., resides at home; Nellie N., married Irvin Harrison, Keokuk, Iowa; Annie L., married John Cherryholmes, of Butler county; Frances, attending school at Hutchinson; Edna, a Butler county teacher; Sarah, attending school at El Dorado; Grace, attending school at El Dorado; Lila, Albert and Alice, residing at home. Mr. Freeman is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at El Dorado, and is a Democrat.

**Alex Hewitt**, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Fairmount township, is a Civil war veteran and a Kansas pioneer, who first came to this State with his parents sixty-three years ago. Mr. Hewitt was born in Erie county, Pa., near the Ohio State line December 18, 1840, and is a son of Chauncey Commodor and Melissa (Herring) Hewitt, natives of Pennsylvania. Chauncey Commodor Hewitt was a son of Walter Hewitt, a native of New York, and of English and Scotch descent. In 1849, Chauncey Commodor Hewitt, with his family, migrated from Pennsylvania to St. Joseph, Mo. The father was a carpenter and millwright, and worked at his trade in that locality until 1853, when he removed to Jefferson county, Kansas, and filed on a claim of Government land. They were among the very first settlers of that section of the State. The father died in 1855, and the mother and children remained on the claim until they proved up and received the deed. In 1859 they removed to Doniphan county, Kansas, where the mother died in 1864.

Shortly after the family left Jefferson county, Alex went to Iowa, where he was engaged as a farm hand until August 12, 1862, when he enlisted in Company I, Fortieth regiment, Iowa infantry, at Springfield, Iowa. He joined his regiment at Davenport and immediately proceeded to Columbus, Ky. After remaining there four months, they went to Paducah, and on January 15, 1863, were ordered south under Grant, in the vicinity of Vicksburg, serving in General Steele's brigade. They were then sent to oppose Johnson and to the relief of General Pemberton, and after that, returned to Vicksburg. After the campaign against Johnson, Mr. Hewitt was one of a detail sent to take a number of his company, who had suffered sunstroke, to a Northern hospital. After that he rejoined his regiment at Little Rock, Ark., and participated in the Red River campaign under General Steele, where he took

part in the battle of Jenkin's Ferry, which was a hard fought engagement, lasting from daylight until 3 p. m., when the Union army was victorious, and his regiment returned to Little Rock, Ark., which was the base of operations.

During his military service Mr. Hewitt had many narrow escapes incident to the life of a soldier. On one occasion while he was one of a detail of twenty men who were acting as guard on a transport, loaded with provisions on the Arkansas river, en route from Little Rock to Fort Gibson, the boat was attacked by a battery of Confederate artillery. They succeeded in landing their boat on the opposite shore of the river and then took to the tall timber and escaped. During this affair Mr. Hewitt's head was grazed by a bullet which singed the hair on the right side. After the close of the war he was mustered out of service at Ft. Gibson, August 2, 1865.

After receiving his discharge from the army, Mr. Hewitt returned to Doniphan county, Kansas, where he remained until 1866, when he went to Iowa and taught school during the winter of 1866 and 1867. He then engaged in railroad contracting and was meeting with financial success until he was injured in an accident, after which he was unable to superintend his work, which he was compelled to entrust to others. He met with considerable financial loss, losing about \$3,000, which was quite an amount to him at that time. He then followed farming in Iowa until 1869, and in 1871, came to Butler county, Kansas, filing on a claim in section 32, Fairmount township, which he still owns. When he came here, his capital was limited. He had a team and wagon and about \$75 in cash. He was very much impressed with the rich soil of Fairmount township as evinced by the luxuriant growth of the tall bluestem, and he was not mistaken in his judgment. He built a small cabin, 10x12 feet, which was his first home in Butler county, and proceeded to improve his land. He prospered and bought more land, and now owns 240 acres of some of the best land in Butler county, and is a prosperous farmer and stock raiser, and one of the substantial business men of Butler county. He has three residence properties in White-water besides several city lots, having platted an addition to White-water in 1914. He is also a stockholder in the People's State Bank of White-water.

Mr. Hewitt was married June 1, 1871, to Miss Martha Merryfield, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph Merryfield of that State. Mr. Hewitt is a Democrat and a member of the Masonic lodge, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

**Charles A. Hufford** is a Butler county pioneer and a prominent farmer and stockman of Union township. Mr. Hufford was born in Harrison county, Virginia, (now West Virginia) in July 1850, and is a son of Hiram and Mary Hufford, natives of Pennsylvania. He was one of a family of four children, as follows: Charles A., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Ella Ensley, Augusta, Kans.; Hugh, Grand Junction,



Colo.; Mrs. Maude Burns, El Reno, Okla. The Hufford family came to Butler county, Kansas, in the fall of 1876, and settled on a claim in Clay township. Their first home there was a dugout, which was a common type of habitation on the claims in the early days. Augusta was their trading town and after coming here the father began farming in a small way, and after passing the first few years of adversity, became a well-to-do farmer and stockman. He died May 12, 1915, and his widow now resides in Oklahoma.

Charles A. Hufford is a successful farmer and stockman and has made Butler county his home since coming here with his parents in 1876. Mr. Hufford was married in 1881, to Miss Ada Shervinton, a daughter of William and Emma Shervinton, natives of Canada, and of English descent. Mrs. Hufford is one of the following children, born to her parents: Mrs. Anna Spring, Ventura, Cal.; Ada, wife of Charles A. Hufford, the subject of this sketch; Watson, resides in Oklahoma; Robert, Salina, Kans.; Mrs. Lena Bailey, resides in Oklahoma; Mrs. Cora Blankenbaker, Latham, Kans.; Felix, resides in Idaho; Mrs. Ella Mannerling, Elkville, Ill.; and Nola, Atlanta, Kans.

The Shervinton family came to Butler county, Kansas, in 1876, and were among the early settlers of Clay township, Butler county, where the father homesteaded 160 acres of land. He was an industrious and thrifty man and made a good home for his family in the new country, and became a well-to-do farmer and stockman. He died in October, 1912, and his widow now resides on the old homestead. Mr. Shervinton was something of a successful hunter in the early days and killed a great many deer and antelope, and hundreds of prairie chickens and other small game. Mr. and Mrs. Hufford have seen a great many bands of Indians, who frequently strolled over the plains in early days.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hufford have been born the following children: Walter, Latham, Kans.; Harry, Latham, Kans.; Loren, Clearwater, Kans.; Grace, Glenn, and Roy, all residing at home. The Hufford family is well and favorably known and Mr. Hufford is one of the progressive and substantial citizens of Union township.

**J. J. Griffith**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Rosalia township, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in 1847, and is a son of Benjamin and Margaret (Haird) Griffith, natives of Pennsylvania. The Griffith family came to Kansas in 1874, and located on a farm in Rosalia township, where the parents both spent the remainder of their lives. J. J. Griffith has made farming and stock raising his life's occupation and has met with very satisfactory success and is one of the substantial men of Rosalia township.

Mr. Griffith was united in marriage in 1868 to Miss Mary E. Gray, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Michael Gray. To Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have been born the following children: William J., El Dorado, Kans.; Samuel M., El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Bertha V. Boucher, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Alice Hart, El Dorado, Kans.; Mrs. Maggie

Reed, Whitewater, Kans.; Rev., B. F., Winfield, Kans.; Mrs. May Burris, Keighley, Kans.; Mrs. Eva Nacc, Emporia, Kans.; Mrs. Jessie L. Cannon, Rosalia, Kans., and Glen, Emporia, Kans.

Mr. Griffith is a man who has a deep comprehension of justice and always aims to stand for the right. His influence over his fellow men has been of a helpful and inspiring kind. He has given expression to the best that was in him, and in his happy and jovial way, he has always helped to make others happy and showed them the bright side of life. In the early days when there was much suffering and many hardships to be endured, he always kept up the same cheerful mood and looked forward to better days, which finally came. Mrs. Griffith was one of the pioneer women who patiently and courageously bore her part in laying the foundation for the future of Butler county and the great West. She is an ideal mother, who sought to instill into the hearts of her children the principles of the Christian religion, and she has no doubt succeeded in a full measure. Her children have all grown up to be worthy Christian men and women. One son, B. F., is a Methodist minister, and Glen is preparing himself with a view of being a gospel singer. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith are justly proud of their large family of boys and girls.

**Henry Sensenbaugh** of Hickory township is a pioneer stockman of Butler county and a prominent factor in that line of industry. Mr. Sensenbaugh was born in Pennsylvania, July 23, 1849, and is a son of Paul and Sarah Sensenbaugh, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Bedford county, September 8, 1825, and the latter born June 21, 1825. The following children of this couple are still living: Mrs. Mary E. Campbell, Morrison, Okla.; Joseph, Reno, Nev.; and Henry, the subject of this sketch.

Henry Sensenbaugh's parents left their native State in 1850, when Henry was about one year old. They came down the Ohio river on a packet boat and ascended the Mississippi as far north as Rock Island, Ill., and located on a farm in Henry county, Illinois, about forty miles east of Rock Island. Here Henry was educated in the public schools and in early life "followed the river" and when he was twenty-two years of age, he became second mate on the "Lizzie Gardner," a well known Mississippi river boat in those days.

In 1873 Mr. Sensenbaugh came to Kansas and settled in Hickory township, Butler county. He located on 160 acres of land and after getting four ponies, one of which was a spotted one, he proceeded to break his prairie land. His outfit might have seemed more appropriate in a circus parade, but he succeeded in tilling the soil and raising a crop with them. He also used oxen in the early days and frequently drove to dances with his ox team outfit. They had to start early and the method of transportation was slow, but the party no doubt enjoyed themselves as well as if they had gone in an automobile and surely for a longer time in going the same distance. When Mr. Sensenbaugh came to this coun-

ty, prairie chickens, antelope, deer and wolves were plentiful. He was hunting deer one day with a Mr. Huston, and shot at a deer which he wounded, and afterwards found that it was a pet, belonging to Mr. Huston. On one occasion, Mr. Sensenbaugh hired a pony at Wichita to drive to Whitewater in the night, where his father lived, and the pony gave out on the way, and Mr. Sensenbaugh was carrying considerable money and did not wish to be delayed. He found a mule picketed along the trail. Taking the mule and leaving his pony and a note, saying that he would return the mule the next morning at eight o'clock, he proceeded on his journey. He lived up to his written promise, and returned the mule the next morning and all was well.

Shortly after settling in this county Mr. Sensenbaugh engaged in buying hogs which usually cost him about one dollar per head. He shipped about two thousand, and he and his partner made about \$17,000 on this project. He had always raised cattle and also dealt quite extensively in them and for some years has made a specialty of raising Aberdeens. He now owns 360 acres of land which is well watered and an ideal stock farm.

Mr. Sensenbaugh was married in 1888, to Miss Ester Rose Guy. She is a daughter of B. F. Guy who came from Missouri with his family to Butler county and homesteaded 160 acres of land. The father died in 1914 and the mother now resides in Leon, Kans. They were the parents of the following children: Melvin, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Cora Harper, Newkirk, Okla.; Edward, Sacramento, Cal.; Ester Rose, wife of Henry Sensenbaugh, the subject of this sketch; John, Bartlesville, Okla.; Frank, Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Daisy Carter, Greeley, Col., and Fred, Keighley, Kans.

The Guy family were early settlers in Butler county and Mrs. Sensenbaugh relates many interesting incidents of pioneer days. She tells of one time when one of the old fashioned prairie fires was sweeping over the plains and the barn caught fire. Her mother, who was home alone, endeavored to get the horses out of the barn, but she was unable to get them out of the door. However, she succeeded in leading them out of a hole which the animals had eaten in the side of the straw barn. It will readily be seen from this that the straw barns of the early days had their advantages, as well as other features. Mr. and Mrs. Sensenbaugh have three children, as follows: Mrs. Francis Shinn, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Montgomery and Frederick P., all of whom reside in Butler county in the vicinity of Latham.

**Clarence Morgan** is a native son of Butler county, born at Douglass in 1895, and is a son of A. V. and Jessie (Baum) Morgan. The Morgan and Baum families were very early settlers in Butler county. A. V. Morgan was born in Indiana and came to Butler county, Kansas, in the early seventies. Jessie Morgan, the mother, is also a native of Butler county. Her parents, Lucas and Sarah Baum, came to Butler county about 1870, and settled on 160 acres of land.

A. V. Morgan was one of a family of three children, as follows: W. J., Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Belle Stickman, Douglass, Kans., and A. V., the father of Clarence. Jessie Baum, the mother, is one of a family of five children, the others being as follows: W. F. Baum, Augusta, Kans.; Momford Baum, Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Rose Berry, Winfield, Kans., and Mrs. Stella McGuire, Winfield, Kans.

Clarence Morgan, the subject of this sketch, is one of a family of five children, the others being as follows: Irwin, Ruby, Pearl and Warren. Clarence Morgan was reared on a farm in Bloomington township and was educated in the public schools, attending the Douglas High School. Mr. Morgan is an industrious young man, and every indication is that he has a brilliant future. He comes of pioneer Butler county stock which, among other favorable indications, would indicate that he possesses the courage and definiteness of purpose to make a success of his undertakings.

**Francis M. McAnnally**, a prominent pioneer of Kansas, now deceased, was born in Franklin county, Indiana, July 6, 1841, a son of William and Nancy (Poe) McAnnally. The mother was a native of Kentucky and a relative of Andrew and Adam Poe, known in the history of Kentucky as famous Indian fighters. They were brothers, and in a desperate encounter with a band of Wyandottes, killed chief Big Foot, of that tribe. William McAnnally was a native of Tennessee, and grew to manhood in his native State, when he went to Kentucky where he met and married Nancy Poe. Shortly after their marriage, they went to Franklin county, Indiana, where they bought land and resided there to Franklin county, Indiana, where they bought land and resided until his wife's health failed, when they moved to Hardingtown, where she died. After that, William McAnnally resided at Brookville, the county seat of Franklin county, and was prominent in that county, and at one time held the office of sheriff. He died at Brookville in 1888. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom Francis M., the subject of this sketch, was the youngest.

Francis as about three years old when the mother died, and it devolved upon him in early life to make his own way in the world. As a boy he worked at almost anything which presented itself as a means of livelihood. His early opportunities to obtain an education were necessarily limited under the circumstances, and when he attained the age of sixteen years, he worked on a farm for his board and attended school. While a boy in his teens, he realized the importance of an education, and determined to attend school. In 1858, he went to Hamilton county, Ohio, to care for a sick brother and remained there about two years, during which time he attended school, and in that way obtained an average education.

In October, 1860, Mr. McAnnally was married, to Miss Rachel Hannah Boyles, a native of Hamilton county, Ohio, born September 13, 1842. She was a daughter of Cyrus and Mary U. (Crail) Boyles, the for-

mer a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Kentucky. Cyrus Boyles was born in 1801, a son of John Boyles, who was a native of Ireland, and who immigrated to this country when two years of age with his father, Michael Boyles, came to America with his family before the Revolutionary war. Michael Boyles served in the American army during the Revolutionary war. John Boyles' wife bore the name of Margaret Jane Clifford, and was a native of Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of Captain Clifford who held a commission as captain in the War of 1812. When Cyrus Boyles was sixteen years of age, he removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1817, and spent his life in that State. He died January 4, 1869.

Francis McAnnally and his wife lived in Ohio after their marriage until 1867, when they drove to Johnson county, Missouri, with a team and covered wagon. They remained in that locality two years, and in 1869, came to Butler county and homesteaded a quarter section of land in what is now Fairview township. After coming here, they camped on Harrison creek for four weeks while looking for a suitable location, and then after locating on their claim they lived until December of that year in a tent, when their little cabin was completed. Their first few years in Kansas were filled with trials and privations, but they were happy in the possession of good health, and confident in the future, and finally success came. The country, at that time, was one broad stretch of unbroken prairie, and the primitive animals of the plains were plentiful, and Mrs. McAnnally frequently went on short hunting expeditions with her husband, and has brought young fawns home which she raised as pets. Mr. McAnnally did some freighting in the early days between Florence and El Dorado.

Mr. McAnnally always took an interest in local public affairs and was prominent in the community. In 1881, he was elected trustee of Fairmount township, and also served as constable of his township. In 1882, he went to El Dorado and for two years was engaged in the grocery business, when he returned to his farm in Fairmount, where he died November 14, 1902. To Mr. and Mrs. McAnnally have been born four children, as follows: Thomas J., born July 4, 1861, in Ohio, and died October 3, 1893; A. J., born August 29, 1863, and died October 5, 1863; Lemuel Albert, born December 17, 1871, now resides in New Mexico; and Ira Francis, born October 26, 1874, lives in Oklahoma.

**M. T. Tague**, a well known farmer and stockman of Bloomington township, was born in Indiana in 1851, and is a son of Samuel and Annie Tague. They were the parents of the following children: Joseph, lives in Oregon; David, Vinton, Iowa; John M. Lawton, Oklahoma; Mrs. Sarah Veyett, Kennesaw, Neb.; Mrs. Mary Jane Griss, lives in Colorado, and M. T., the subject of this sketch.

M. T. Tague came to Butler county in 1882 and first located in Spring township where he followed farming and stock raising. In 1896, he bought 120 acres of land in Bloomington township, which are well

improved, with a comfortable residence and other farm buildings. Mr. Tague is one of the men who came to Kansas with very little capital, and had a hard struggle to get a start, but, by economy and industry, he has accumulated a competence, and is one of the well-to-do men of Bloomington township. He bought two cows, which were his start in the cattle business. He raised and bought calves, which he fed for a year or two and then sold them at a good profit. While he went in debt for most of the purchase price of his farm, when his notes fell due, he was always there with the money. Although it required a great effort to meet his obligations at times, he always made the sacrifice, and kept his credit good.

Mr. Tague was married in 1875 to Miss Mary Whitham, a daughter of Josephus and Melvina Whitham. Mrs. Tague has a sister and half brother living. They are: Mrs. Eva Burton, Burns, Kans., and Oliver Whitham, Cassoday, Kans. Mrs. Tague has not only been a companion, but a business partner of her husband and she has contributed in every way to his success. To Mr. and Mrs. Tague have been born the following children: C. D., Leon, Kans.; Mrs. Flora A. Crowley, Leon, Kans.; J. S., Douglass, Kans.; Mrs. Daisy I. Kennedy, Augusta, Kans.; M. M., El Dorado, Kans., and Mrs. Mary M. Brittan, El Dorado, Kans. Mr. Tague is one of the progressive and enterprising agriculturists of Butler county, and is recognized for his worth and integrity by a large circle of acquaintances.

**Robert Kinley** of Bloomington township, is a Butler county pioneer who has witnessed all the stages of the settlement and development of this county from a vast unbroken waste to its present populous and prosperous state. He began farming in a small way, after the plan of the average pioneer, and has become one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of the county. Robert Kinley is a native of the Isle of Man and was born in 1843. He is a son of Edward and Isabella Kinley. Mr. Kinley immigrated to America in 1866, and settled in Ohio. After spending three years in that State, he came to Kansas in 1869, and located in Wilson county. Robert Kinley owned a farm in Wilson county which he sold and this deal proved to be an unfortunate one. He received a check for the purchase price of his farm but before he presented it the bank upon which it was drawn failed. He then went to Illinois, but in 1882 returned to Kansas where he owned eighty acres of land upon which he had proved up.

Mr. Kinley has followed general farming and stock raising and has been very successful. He now owns a well improved farm in Butler county which consists of 231 acres which is under a high state of cultivation. He is one of the men who is entitled to the degree of success which has come to him. He had many experiences in the rough and ready pioneer days. He was here when the so-called "bad men" held sway on the border and the lives and property of early settlers were in secure, and he well remembers when this reign of terror was brought to

a sudden close by the wholesale hanging of a number of horse and cattle rustlers by the vigilance committee. Mr. Kinley recalls an incident which happened to him at Douglass that made a lasting impression on his mind. He was looking for a certain man and inquired from some men if they knew where he was and his informant pointed out a man to Mr. Kinley and told him to ask him where his man was. The man pointed out proved to be the chief of the vigilance committee and it developed that the man that Mr. Kinley was looking for was a notorious horse thief and the chief of the committee was very much offended at Mr. Kinley's question and threatened to kill him. This is merely one of the many incidents of his early life on the plains. He also had his experience with early day prairie fires and blizzards. On one occasion when he was hauling lumber from Florence to Walnut City he was caught in a blizzard with the thermometer ten degrees below zero and succeeded in keeping from freezing by continually walking.

Mr. Kinley was united in marriage in 1881 with Miss Mary Kaighin, a daughter of John Kaighin, and the following children were born to this union: Cora, Mary, Eva, Robert, Ruby and Florence, the last two being deceased. Mrs. Kinley died in 1893. Mr. Kinley lived in El Dorado for a number of years in order that his children might have the advantage of better schools and during that time worked at his trade of blacksmithing. In 1909 he returned to his farm and since that time has given it his undivided attention. He is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county and has made good.

**W. A. Sherar**, a successful Union township farmer and stockman, is a native of Kansas. He was born at Paola, Miami county, December 15, 1867, and is a son of George and Anna C. Sherar, being one of the following children born to them: M. D., Anthony, Kans.; W. A., Latham, Kans.; Mrs. Minnie Sipe, Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Dottie Hoskins, Lamar, Colo., and W. A., the subject of this sketch. After the death of the mother of these children, the father was married to Mary Prosser, and two children were born to that union: W. B. Sherar and Mrs. Maude Kelsey, Winfield, Kans.

George Sherar, the father, served in the Union army, during the Civil war, and shortly after the close of that great conflict, like many of the other soldier boys, he came to Kansas, first locating in Miami county. In 1871 he came to Butler county and homesteaded a quarter section of land in Union township. This was an early day in the settlement of that section of the county. Upon coming here, Mr. Sherar proceeded to build a home, hauling the lumber for the same from Humboldt, and some from Wichita. The father was quite a hunter, and frequently went farther west on buffalo hunts. The family was well provided with buffalo meat and other wild game.

W. A. Sherar, as a boy, saw much of the early life of Butler county. He remembers when Milo Nance, then a young man, came from Douglass in haste, spreading the news of an Indian uprising, and all the set-

tlers hid their supplies in the fields; the men proceeded to mold an extra supply of bullets, and the women and children hid in the fields, and they prepared to meet the attack, when it developed that it was a false alarm. This was one of the many incidents of the false report of a would-be Paul Revere of the plains. One of the greatest hardships of the early settlers was the long distance to medical aid and the time required to get a doctor. El Dorado was the nearest point where a physician could be found in the early days in Union township.

W. A. Sherar has always followed farming and stock raising. He got his start in life, when a young man, by breaking prairie for neighbors. He is of the thrifty and industrious type of men, who not only accumulate a competence for themselves, but build up communities. He owns 360 acres of land, about ninety acres of which are under cultivation, and the balance is used for grazing purposes. His place is well improved, with a modern residence, good barns and well fenced, and he has a never-failing spring, which is an asset of inestimable value, particularly to a stockman.

Mr. Sherar was married, in 1898, to Miss Mable Ellis, a daughter of S. C. and Mary Ellis of Latham, Kans. Mr. Sherar is a progressive and public spirited citizen, and has an extensive acquaintance, and he and his wife have many friends.

**G. H. French**, a well-to-do farmer and stockman of Sycamore township, was born in Windsor, Vt., in 1856, and is a son of Charles H. and Laura French. Mr. French came to Kansas in 1884 and first settled near Abilene. After remaining there two years, he came to Butler county shortly after his marriage in 1886. He first rented land of S. S. Harsh and five years later bought eighty acres of that place. When he bought the place he had about \$200 to pay down and he paid the balance in the next five years. He sold this place in 1896 and bought 160 acres where he now lives in Sycamore township. He has added to this and now has a fine farm of 320 acres which is under an excellent state of cultivation, well improved, fenced and stocked. Mr. French has been an extensive raiser of cattle and hogs and has been successful and is one of the prosperous landowners in Sycamore township.

Mr. French was married in 1886, to Miss Evora Holton, a daughter of Reuben and Lorena Holton, natives of Vermont, and of English descent. Mrs. French is one of the following children born to her parents: Mrs. Cornelia Smith, Red Wing, Minn.; Mrs. Rose Smith, Cassoday, Kans.; Wallace Holton, DeGraff, Kans.; Charles Holton, Abilene, Kans.; and Mrs. French. Mr. and Mrs. French have reared one adopted daughter, Mrs. Merle Pettyjohn, El Dorado, Kans.

When Mr. and Mrs. French located in Sycamore township, their home was near the old California trail, which passed between where their house and barn are now located. Traffic was very heavy over this trail in the early days and Mr. French has counted as many as eighty-five teams which passed here in one day. Sycamore Springs was a fav-



orite camping place for travelers because of its excellent water. Indians also frequently passed and sometimes in large bands after Mr. French located here.

There were no churches in Sycamore township at that time but services were held in the school houses. Rev. Sears was one of their pioneer preachers. Prairie fires were one of the menaces to the early settlers' peace of mind, and Mr. French has fought prairie fires on many occasions. He is one of Butler county's pioneers who is well entitled to success for he and his noble wife endured the hardships and overcame the difficulties of pioneer life and are the type of people who courageously fought the good fight that, not only built up Butler county but laid the foundation for the great West.

**S. J. Robison**, a prominent farmer of Union township, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Valparaiso, that State, in 1843. He is a son of Thomas and Rebecca Robison, natives of Pennsylvania. The former is of German and the latter of Scotch descent. They were the parents of two children: S. J. Robison, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Abigail Hubbard, of Marceline, Mo.

The Robison family migrated from Indiana to Missouri and settled in Carroll county in 1868. Here the father bought 136 acres of land and engaged in general farming. He and his wife both died in Carroll county, Missouri. S. J. Robison bought the home farm in Missouri in 1891 and in 1895 came to Kansas, locating in Union township, Butler county, where he bought 320 acres of land. He has since been engaged in farming and stock raising there, and has met with unusual success and is one of the prosperous and substantial stockmen of that section of the county.

Mr. Robison was married in 1871, to Miss Mary E. Shannon, a daughter of James and Saphira Shannon. Her father was a Virginian of Irish descent. To James and Saphira Shannon were born the following children: Mrs. Rebecca Jeffers, Maronsville, Mo.; James, resides in Missouri; Ervin, California; Mrs. Virginia Older, Oklahoma; James, Oregon; Charles, California; William, California; and Mary E., wife of I. J. Robison, the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Robison are the parents of the following children: Samuel, Lamar, Colo.; John, Latham, Kans., and James, Lamar, Colo.

Mr. Robison is one of the substantial citizens of Butler county, and while he may not be classed among the pioneer settlers, he certainly is entitled to mention as a potential factor in civil and commercial Butler county of today.

**Mrs. William Hoy**, a pioneer woman of Sycamore township, was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1844. She bore the maiden name of Davison, and was a daughter of William D. and Amelia Davison, natives of New Jersey. There were two other children in the Davison family besides Mrs. Hoy, as follows: Mrs. Martha I. Jeroan, Vanata, Ohio, and Albert W. Davison, Utica, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hoy were

married in 1869, and the following children were born to this union, who are now living: Mrs. Etta Goodnight, Englewood, Kans.; Mrs. Daisy Roberson, Cassoday, Kans.; Frank E., Cassoday, and Mrs. Ethel Wright, Aroya, Colo.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Hoy resided in Ohio until they came to Butler county and bought eighty acres of land in Sycamore township. This place was slightly improved, and had a small three roomed house and a straw barn. During the first few years here, they met with discouragements, which were the common lot of the pioneers, and they had a great deal of sickness, but Mrs. Hoy says that although the neighbors were not numerous, they were always ready and willing to help each other, for it seems that the sordid and indifferent dispositions, fostered by the almighty dollar, had not, at that time, taken root on the wild and unbroken plains of Butler county. The Hoy home in Butler county was located on the old California trail, and a great many travelers topped at their place for meals and lodging and always found accommodation, none ever being turned away. Indians frequently traveled back and forth over the trail, and, at one time, a band of 250 camped near the Hoy home for two days.

Mr. Hoy was a hard working man and a good citizen. He always looked on the bright side of life, and was naturally of a jovial disposition. He took a deep interest in the welfare of the community, and was particularly a friend of the public schools, and served on the local school board for a number of years. He died in July, 1912. He was a great sufferer for several months before his death, and bore the most excruciating pain with fortitude and resignation. He not only bore the distinction of being a good citizen, but in the dark days of the Civil war, he enlisted as a private and served until the surrender of Lee.

Mrs. Hoy has been deeply interested in Sunday school and church work throughout her life, and is a potent factor for good in her community. She helped organize the first Sunday school in Sycamore township, and is one of the noble, pioneer women of Butler county.

**W. Oscar Moore**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Murdock township, is a member of one of Butler county's old pioneer families. He was born in Kendall county, Illinois, in May, 1852. His parents were Reuben and Minerva (Paul) Moore, both natives of Illinois. In the early days the family went from Illinois to Iowa and from there to Texas, and thence to Missouri. In 1857 they settled in Douglass county in the Territory of Kansas. This was four years before Kansas was admitted to the Union. After remaining in Douglass county for ten years, the family removed to Butler county in 1867, settling in Murdock county, being among the very first settlers of that section, and here the father engaged in farming and stock raising and spent the remainder of his life. To Reuben and Minerva (Paul) Moore were born the following children: Edgar, Lawton, Okla.; J. Monroe, Elgin, Kans.; W. Oscar, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Melissa Taylor, Toronto, Kans., and Mrs. Etta Wiley, Altoona, Kans.

W. Oscar Moore grew to manhood on his father's farm in Murdock township and started in life for himself by purchasing eighty acres of land from his father in 1876. He immediately began work on his new place, breaking out a little prairie during the summer of the first year and then he was compelled to sell his team in order to get money to build a little house and live during the winter. The next year he had a good crop of wheat, although he had but seven acres. This gave him a start and since that time he has met with unvarying success and is one of the substantial men of Murdock township.

Mr. Moore was married in April, 1872, to Miss Louisa Adams, a daughter of David and Sarah Adams. The Adams family consisted of the parents and three children, as follows: Mrs. Lavina Turner, of Wichita; Elmer, Duncan, Okla., and the wife of W. Oscar Moore, the subject of this sketch. To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born five children, as follows: Mrs. Effie Courter, Tahoma, Okla.; Arthur, South Haven, Kans.; Reuben, Whitewater, Kans.; Orin, Whitewater, Kans., and Ray, Benton, Kans. Hazel Newcomb, a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moore, makes her home with them and is attending school. The members of the Moore family are well known and highly respected and number among the leading citizens of the locality where they reside.

**W. H. Bodecker**, a Butler county pioneer, came to Butler county at a time when many early settlers were having a struggle for existence, but Mr. Bodecker was not of that type. He had the foresight to see great possibilities in the future of this section of Kansas and the courage to act according to his convictions. He invested heavily in lands, and, as a reward of his capability and industry, he has become one of the wealthy men of the county, and is now the largest land owner in Murdock township.

Mr. Bodecker was born in Adams county, Illinois, in 1853, and is a son of G. D. and Anna Bodecker, Illinois pioneers and of German descent. He came to Butler county in 1885 and bought 160 acres of land. Having some means when he came here, he was in a position to take advantage of opportunities when he saw them. He started in Butler county with a cash capital of \$7,000 and bought land from time to time, not only in Butler, but Sedgwick and Comanche counties, until he became the owner of 3,371 acres. Some of this land has not only doubled, but more than tripled in value since he bought it. He went into the cattle business extensively, and became one of the successful cattle men of this part of the State. In 1907, he realized \$21,000 from cattle alone, and that was just about an average year.

Mr. Bodecker was married, in 1878, to Miss Marguerite Schmitt of Illinois, and a daughter of Andreas Schmitt, a prosperous farmer of that State. To Mr. and Mrs. Bodecker have been born the following children: Louis, Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Emma Leeder, Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Rose Wilson, Augusta, Kans.; W. J., Benton, Kans.; Mrs. Christina Ohlson, Benton, Kans.; Frank, Benton; Nellie, Viola and Beatrice, all of Wichita.

In 1912, Mr. Bodecker retired from active business life and built an \$8,000 residence in Wichita, where he now resides. At the time that he retired, he gave each of his five children a quarter section of land, and they are all successful and well-to-do farmers and stockmen. The Bodecker family are well known in Butler county, and are prominent in the community where they reside.

**B. Levring**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Benton township, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Knox county in 1858, and is a son of Enoch and Amanda Levring, natives of Ohio. The Levring family consists of the following children: Riley, Levring, Ohio; Judson, Chesterville, Ohio; Charles R., Fredericktown, Ohio; Dr. C. A., Ashland, Ohio; Mrs. Ella Vernon, Fredericktown, Ohio; Mrs. Maggie Wright, Alexander, Ohio; and B., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Levring came to Kansas and located in Benton township, Butler county, in 1885. He first bought eighty acres of land, to which he moved and began improving and later bought forty acres adjoining his original purchase, and he also owns eighty acres of land in Sedgwick county. He has devoted himself to general farming and stock raising, and is one of the successful agriculturalists of Butler county.

Mr. Levring was married in 1884, to Miss Emeline Malick, a daughter of Noah and Martha Malick, of Ohio. Four children were born to this union, as follows: Mrs. Gertrude Workman, San Diego, Cal.; Allen R., lives in Sedgwick county, Kans.; Mrs. Edith Bacheelder, Wichita, Kans., and Clifford O., resides in Sedgwick county. The wife, and mother of these children, died in April, 1904, and Mr. Levring married Mrs. E. A. McGehe, of Illinois, in 1908.

Mr. Levring takes an active interest in local affairs and has always been a strong advocate of good schools and served on the school board of his district for eighteen years. He is one of the substantial and well known men of this section.

**John Ellis**, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of El Dorado, belongs to one of the real pioneer families of Butler county. The Ellis family was among the first who made a permanent settlement in this county. John Ellis was born in Waukegan, Lake county, Illinois, April 13, 1854, and is a son of Archibald and Ann (Tiernan) Ellis, both natives of Ireland, the former of Castlebar, County Mayo, and the latter of County Meade. They both came to America on the same sailing vessel and were married after reaching New York. They resided for a time in New Jersey and then came west, locating in Lake county, Illinois, and in 1859 came to Kansas. There were no railroads in Kansas at that time.

The Ellis family came from Illinois to Kansas by river route. Taking a boat at the Illinois river at LaSalle, Ill., they went down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers to the confluence of the Mississippi Missouri and then up the Missouri to Westport Landing, which is now Kansas City, Mo. They drove overland from there to Emporia and the

father and the oldest son, George, started out from that point to look for a location, leaving the mother and the younger children at Emporia. After finding a suitable location in Chelsea township, Butler county, on the Walnut river, they started back to Emporia for the other members of the family, and while crossing the Cottonwood river their team was drowned and they narrowly escaped the same fate themselves. They soon returned to Butler county and the father preempted the land which he had decided upon and that same quarter section is still owned by a member of the family.

The father engaged in the cattle business and was considered quite an extensive cattleman for those early days. He was successful in his business ventures, and at the time of his death owned about 1,600 acres of land. When a young man he was a candle and soap maker by trade but never worked at that after coming west. He was a man of an adventurous spirit, with unlimited courage and enterprise. In 1847, while his family remained in Illinois, he went to California, going by way of New York and the Isthmus of Panama. He returned to Illinois within two years and in 1849 made another trip to California. This was during the excitement following the discovery of gold there, and he remained about seven years that time, engaged in gold mining and met with some degree of success. Shortly after returning from the coast the second time, he came to Kansas with his family, as above stated.

When the Ellis family came to Butler county there was no town or settlement of any kind in the county. Leavenworth, about 200 miles distant, was the nearest trading point of any account and the father usually made about two trips a year there for supplies. Their nearest post-office was Emporia, about eighty miles distant. Later Cottonwood Falls secured a postoffice, and finally one was established at Chelsea. For several years the nearest grist mill was at Emporia. Few of the early settlers now living in Butler county were here in time to see the buffalo roaming over the plains in this county, but Mr. Ellis, whose name introduces this sketch, has seen as many as 150 in a herd here, and deer were plentiful for several years after the buffalo disappeared.

Archibald Ellis, father of John Ellis, was not only successful in private life, but was prominent in the public affairs of the county during his life time. He was a Democrat and took an active part in politics. He served two terms as treasurer of Butler county and was a member of the board of county commissioners at the time of his death. He was a conspicuous figure in the early day county seat fight, as well as in other important matters of public interest. He died in 1879 and was survived by his wife for a number of years, who died in 1892. Archibald Ellis and wife were the parents of the following children: George, deceased; Mollie, married N. B. Coggshall, Chelsea township; Archie, deceased; John, the subject of this sketch; William, deceased; Lizzie, deceased; and Frank, deceased.

Although comparatively a young man, John Ellis remembers

having seen almost the beginning of Butler county. When he came here with his parents, there were few signs of civilization, no improvements and scarcely any inhabitants. One would get the impression from that statement that Butler county was new. It is new, but the astounding part of it is, that such marvellous development could take place within less than half a century; within the memory of a young man, who is still active in the business affairs of the life of the county.

John Ellis attended one of the first schools in Butler county. It was a little log affair, located on George T. Donaldson's place in Chelsea township. The school house did double duty; something on the Gary plan that we hear of nowadays. In the summer time it was used for a school house and in the winter time, it posed as a corn crib. Mr. Ellis' first teacher was Margaret Vaught. Indians were plentiful but peaceful, usually going through on hunting trips; Indian scares were frequent but generally unfounded.

John Ellis engaged in farming for himself at the age of nineteen and he has increased his business gradually until he has become one of the extensive farmers and stock raisers of Butler county. His principal products are hay, cattle and horses. He operates about 1,750 acres of land in Chelsea and Sycamore townships, and for the last sixteen years has resided in El Dorado, where he has a modern home. He spends nearly every day on his farm, going to and from in his automobile. Mr. Ellis is interested in various commercial and industrial enterprises, in addition to his vast farming interests. He is vice president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of El Dorado and vice president of the Telephone company. He has taken an active interest in political affairs and has served two terms as county commissioner of Butler county.

Mr. Ellis was united in marriage in September, 1886, with Miss Mary Hull, a native of Sangamon county, Illinois, and a daughter of John and Eliza (Blalock) Hull, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Illinois. The Hull family came to Kansas in 1869, settling in Wilson county, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have two children, Gladys, the wife of Homer Marshall, Chelsea township, and they have one child, Mary L.: and G. J. Ellis, attending the public schools at El Dorado.

**Worth W. Kemper**, a successful farmer and stockman, of Plum Grove township, now residing in Whitewater, is a native of West Virginia. He was born in Lewis county, May 18, 1860. Among his earliest recollections are the closing days of the Civil war. The different sections of his native State were alternately in the hands of the Union and the Confederate troops, and in that section of the country, neighbors, and even brothers, differed on the great question involved in that conflict. Mr. Kemper recalls the existence of a cave in the mountain side near his home, where he and his little companions frequently played. This same cave was also used as a place of refuge of first one

side and then the other, as the position of that section shifted from the control of one of the contending armies to the other.

Worth W. Kemper is a son of John Robert and Elizabeth (Simmons) Kemper. The father was a native of Virginia, and of German descent. The Kemper family dates back to Colonial days, in this country, and was founded in the colony of Virginia in 1749. John Robert Kemper was a farmer, blacksmith, and preacher, and spent his life in West Virginia. His wife, Elizabeth Simmons, was a daughter of David and Sallie (Grogg) Simmons, natives of Germany. John Robert Kemper and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom Worth W., the subject of this sketch, was the fifth in order of birth.

Worth W. Kemper grew to manhood in Lewis county, West Virginia, and was brought up on a farm, and, in his youth, learned to use his father's blacksmith tools. After reaching his majority, he went to West Union, W. Va., and worked at the blacksmith's trade about a year, when he went to Tyler county and worked at his trade for a time. Here he met Miss Tama B. Joseph, to whom he was married in March, 1882. She is a daughter of James and Nancy Joseph. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Kemper lived in the little town of Camp, Tyler county, where Mr. Kemper worked at blacksmithing. Several members of the Joseph family had been in Kansas in the early days, and Mrs. Kemper's father had lived in Butler county when she was a girl, but had returned to Virginia in 1874, and, as a girl, Mrs. Kemper had many pleasant as well as some disagreeable recollections of life on the plains of Butler county in the pioneer days.

In the spring of 1883, Mr. Kemper and his wife and their infant son, James Ott, set out for Kansas. They located in the old, historic town of Plum Grove, now extinct. Their capital was limited, Mr. Kemper having just \$14 in cash, when they reached Butler county. He bought a small, two room house, which served as their home, and he also bought a set of blacksmith tools and a shop, for which he agreed to pay \$300, when his note came due. As soon as he opened his blacksmith shop to the public, work came in abundance, and he had all that he could do in the thriving little town of Plum Grove. However, there came a day, when the Missouri Pacific railroad was built, which missed the town of Plum Grove, and it was then that the old town began to slip from the map. Shortly after the railroad was built, Mr. Kemper moved his shop to the new town of Brainerd, and had plenty to do in his line of work there.

Three years later he moved to Potwin, where he conducted a blacksmith shop about a year. Mr. and Mrs. Kemper then took up their home on the farm of her grandfather, Whitman Joseph, who was quite an old gentleman. Mr. Kemper operated the Joseph place, which was a very large farm, for seven years, until the death of Mr. Joseph in 1895. After the death of the old gentleman, Mr. Kemper bought a part of the farm, consisting of a quarter of section 8. Later he bought another

quarter section from N. M. Joseph, which joins his first purchase, and he now owns a half section of rich bottom land on the Whitewater, which will compare favorably with any soil in the State of Kansas. He raises a great many cattle and also carries on general farming. He is one of the best cattlemen in the country. He is equally as good a judge of market conditions as he is of cattle, and in twenty years of experience as a feeder, he has never lost money on a bunch of cattle, and he has handled a great many.

Mr. and Mrs. Kemper are the parents of four children: James Ott, a successful farmer and stockman, Plum Grove township; Iva, deceased; Lula, wife of J. O. Wilson, Murdock township, and Waldo, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Kemper reside in a beautiful, modern residence in Whitewater, where they are well known and have many friends. Mr. Kemper is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**August Hinz**, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Fairmont township, is one of Butler county's extensive land owners. Mr. Hinz was born in Germany, January 28, 1850, and is a son of Ernest and Augusta Hinz, both natives of Germany. When August was eight years old, the Hinz family immigrated to Canada, and the father located in the forests of the Province of Ontario, about eighty miles from the Michigan line. The family was poor, and had a hard struggle to establish themselves in their little home in the wilds of Canada, but by industry and thrift, they finally succeeded. There were six children in the Hinz family, and August was the third in order of birth.

August Hinz grew to manhood on the farm in Ontario, and in 1872, was married to Rosina Miller, who was also a native of Germany. After his marriage, August Hinz worked in a saw mill in Canada, and walked two miles to and from his work and frequently through snow four or five feet deep, working for \$1.25 per day. During the first year of his married life, he saved \$50 from his earnings, besides paying for his household goods and buying a cow, and at the end of four years, he bought a farm and made a substantial payment on the same. He built a log hut on his place and a small stable and began farming and clearing his land. He improved his place and built a large barn. He bought more land and in the course of time soon had 100 acres of well improved land, and even under adverse conditions he made money and prospered.

In 1884, Mr. Hinz sold his farm in Canada, and came to Kansas, and bought the northwest quarter of section 18, Clifford township. This place was practically unimproved. There was a small house and a stable on the place, but neither were of any particular account, and Mr. Hinz proceeded to improve his newly acquired farm and soon had the place in fairly good condition, with good substantial buildings. Coming from a heavily timbered country, like western Canada, the Hinz family could not readily resign themselves to the broad, wind-swept plains of Butler county. The strong winds of the early days here, were



particularly annoying, and in 1888, the family went in quest of a more agreeable abode. They rented their Butler county farm, and went to Oregon, where they remained about one year, when they returned to Butler county, and from that time on, Butler county has looked all right to the Hinz family. The more they saw of other parts of the country, the more they appreciated Butler county, and the Clifford township farm has been their home ever since, with no serious thoughts of a change.

Mr. Hinz has bought more land from time to time since returning from the coast, making his first purchase of an additional eighty in 1890. Two years later he bought another quarter section, until he has become the owner of 640 acres of land, one half of which is in Clifford township, and the balance in Fairmount township. He carries on general farming and stock raising extensively, and has been very successful in his undertakings, since returning to Butler county. He is one of the largest taxpayers in his township, and for many years has been considered one of the most substantial men, financially, in Fairmount township.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinz reared a family of seven children, all of whom are living and in comfortable circumstances. Mrs. Hinz died May 23, 1915. Mr. Hinz is a member of the Lutheran church, and he has always supported the Republican party, but is not active in political affairs.

**Isaac Newland**, of Bruno township, is a veteran of the Civil war and an early settler in Butler county. He came here in the spring of 1871, reaching Butler county in April of that year, and pre-empted the north-west quarter of section 9, Bruno township, and began life amidst the pioneer surroundings of that early day.

Mr. Newland was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1834, and his parents were Isaac and Elizabeth (Ross) Newland, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Scotch descent. When Isaac Newland was about a year old, his parents removed from Pennsylvania to Logan county where the father died in 1845, and the same year, the widowed mother returned to Pennsylvania with her children. Five years later, or in 1850, the family migrated to Illinois, settling in Hancock county.

In 1850, Isaac Newland was united in marriage to Mirah Sullivan, a native of Pennsylvania, and of Irish descent. Seven children were born to this union, three of whom are living, as follows: Ida, married Charles McDaniel, Harve, Mont.; John A., Chaupique, La., and Etta, married Dr. A. O. Burton, Wichita, Kans. Mrs. Newland, the mother of these children, died in March, 1874, and in 1883, Mr. Newland married Mrs. Mary Graham Hollaway, a daughter of John and Rowena (Pettijohn) Graham, and widow of Floyd Hollaway, who died in 1875, by whom she had two children: Homer Hollaway, Seattle, Wash., and Henry Hollaway, Wichita, Kans.

While a resident of Hancock county, Illinois, Mr. Newland enlisted in Company D, Seventy-eighth regiment, Illinois infantry. This

regiment was attached to the army of the Cumberland, and served under General Rosecrans, and later under General Thomas. Mr. Newland participated in the battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, and in a number of other engagements. At the battle of Missionary Ridge, he received an injury to one of his eyes, after which he was sent to a northern hospital and was discharged for disability, eight months later, and the injury left him partially blind in one eye to this day.

After coming to Butler county in the spring of 1871, Mr. Newland built a little cabin, 12x14 feet, of native timber on his claim, and proceeded to improve his new home, where he has since resided, and been successful as a farmer and stockman. He is one of the substantial citizens of Bruno township, and is well and favorably known in Butler county.

Mr. Newland has been a life long Republican, casting his first vote for John C. Fremont, at the birth of the Republican party in 1856, and he has the satisfaction of having cast his vote for the great Lincoln in 1860, and again in 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Newland are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Andover.

**Thomas S. Newland**, a Civil war veteran and early settler of Butler county, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Logan county, January 18, 1842, a son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Ross) Newland, natives of Pennsylvania, who were married in that State, and afterward removed to Logan county, where the father died in 1845. The mother and children then returned to Pennsylvania, to her old home in Washington county, and in 1850, the mother and her eight children embarked on an Ohio river boat at Wheeling, W. Va., with Illinois as their destination. Mr. Newland was a boy about nine years old when the family made the trip, and says he remembers that on the voyage up the river from Quincy, Ill., that the Mississippi was filled with floating ice. After a short stay at Quincy, the family removed to Hancock county, Illinois.

When the Civil war broke out, or to be exact, September 1, 1862, Mr. Newland enlisted in Company B, Seventy-eighth regiment, Illinois infantry. His regiment was at first attached to the army of the Cumberland, and later took part in Sherman's march to the sea. Mr. Newland participated in many of the important and hard fought battles of that great conflict. He was at the campaign of Atlanta, and after the fall of that place, he was on the expedition through the Carolinas, when the war ended. He was in the Grand Review at Washington, and afterward was sent to Chicago, Ill., where he was discharged and mustered out of service.

In 1871, he came to Butler county, Kansas, and filed on a claim in Bruno township, where he remained until 1874, when the grasshoppers came and destroyed every green blade of vegetation. Mr. Newland made up his mind that from the general appearance of the country after the devastation of these pests, that it was not a good place to live, and he sold his claim and went to California. After working on a ranch there,

for three years, he went to Skagit county, Washington, on the banks of the Skagit river, where he pre-empted a claim, which he sold in 1885. He returned to Butler county, and has since made his home in Bruno township.

Mr. Newland was married in 1874, to Miss Emma Rison, a native of Kansas, and to this marriage four children were born: C. E., Cold Springs, Okla.; Alice, married David Gorman, Cowley county; W. H., Topeka, and Annie, married Angy Riley, Newkirk, Okla. The mother of these children died in Washington, in the spring of 1885, and the family returned to Kansas in the following fall. In 1892, Mr. Newland married Mrs. Margaret Fitzgerald, a widow. She was a daughter of George Snook, a pioneer of Bruno township.

Mr. Newland is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Methodist Episcopal church, and has always been a staunch Republican.

**W. G. Scrivner**, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Whitewater, Kans., is a native of Estill county, Kentucky. He was born January 4, 1854, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Benton) Scrivner, both natives of Kentucky and descendants of old American families. The father was a prosperous farmer in Estill county, Kentucky, where he died in July, 1889. The mother departed this life at the old home in Kentucky in 1909. W. G. Scrivner was one of a family of thirteen children. He received his education in the subscription schools of his native State where he remained until 1875 when he came to Kansas, locating in Atchison county. He remained there during the summer of that year and in October came to Butler county with a brother, N. V. Scrivner, and located on land in Fairmount township.

The Scrivner boys had many experiences of an interesting character during their trip from Kentucky to Butler county. They drove nearly the entire distance and rode mules. When they came to this county their capital was limited to about \$10, but they set to work at once and like the average pioneers of the time made the best of the situation. They broke the raw prairie and planted about on hundred acres of wheat that fall. The first few years were filled with discouraging conditions and repeated failures but they were not discouraged. They rented and operated more land from time to time. In 1885, W. G. Scrivner leased 320 acres, which was well stocked, and during the next three years his profits were \$3,000. In 1889, he purchased a farm of 160 acres in Fairmount township and shortly afterward leased considerable land in that vicinity and he now owns 400 acres of well improved land in Fairmount and Clifford townships, and is one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in northwestern Butler county.

Mr. Scrivner was united in marriage July 15, 1889, with Miss Mary J. Nolinger, a native of Butler county and a daughter of J. C. and Phoebe Ann Nolinger, natives of Indiana, born near Logansport. They were early settlers in Butler county, locating here in 1871. To Mr. and

Mrs. Scriver have been born ten children, as follows: Claude B., Alfred S., G. P., Myrtle, Iva, Harvey, Henry, Benjamin, Dixie and one child who died in infancy.

In addition to his farming operations, Mr. Scrivner deals extensively in mules, and is perhaps the largest dealer of that character in Butler county. He also has various other local interests and is a stockholder in The Peoples State Bank of Whitewater. Mr. Scrivner's fraternal affiliations are with the Masonic Lodge, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Fraternal Citizens, and politically he is a Democrat. In 1913 the family left the farm and removed to Whitewater where they have superior educational facilities.

**A. A. Rice**, a Butler county pioneer and early day merchant, now deceased, was a native of Defiance county, Ohio, born in 1840. He was a son of Oney and Lydia (Bowers) Rice, natives of New York. Oney Rice and his wife came to Ohio, from New York City in the early thirties, and was the third family to settle in Defiance county, Ohio, permanently. Oney Rice was an early day physician, and practiced his profession as successfully as the average physician of his time. He died in Ohio, however, when he was practically a young man.

A. A. Rice was the youngest of a family of four children, and he was reared in the pioneer surroundings of Defiance county, Ohio. He married Miss Julia Alden, a native of Defiance county. Mr. Rice lived on a farm in Ohio for some time after his marriage, and in 1877, came to Kansas on account of his wife's failing health. They located in Harvey county, and after remaining there a year and a half, returned to Ohio. In 1882, Mr. Rice and his family came to Kansas again, this time locating in Augusta, where he leased land and engaged in sheep raising, and had about 1,500 head, but on account of the low prices of wool and mutton, he decided to abandon that industry, and in 1887, traded his sheep for a stock of merchandise at Potwin, and engaged in the mercantile business there, which he conducted for several years. He died in February, 1894. His wife had departed this life in 1880. To A. A. Rice and wife were born three children, of whom F. A. Rice was the youngest.

F. A. Rice received his education in the public schools of Butler county, and was practically brought up in the mercantile business, for during his boyhood days, he assisted his father in the store at Potwin much of the time. In 1894, at the time of the father's death, F. A. was about twenty-one years of age, and he and his sister took charge of the business. The stock at that time was valued at about \$1,500, and Mr. Rice set out to develop and enlarge the business, and make of it a profitable and up to date mercantile establishment, and he has succeeded beyond any doubt. He now carries about \$15,000 worth of stock and everything that is usually found in the department stores of the larger cities, is to be found here. He carries a full line of groceries, dry goods, clothing, hats, etc., and in addition to his regular mercantile line, Mr. Rice is an extensive dealer in automobiles, and is meeting with marked

success in this new departure as well as in the regular mercantile lines. Mr. Rice has followed a system of square dealing, and has won the confidence of the public and built up a large business. He is one of the live merchants of Butler county.

Mr. Rice was married in 1899, to Miss Sarah R. Joseph, a daughter of James and Nancy Joseph, of Butler county. To Mr. and Mrs. Rice have been born the following children: Floyd, Meirl, Ronald and Ruth, deceased. Mr. Rice is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Potwin, and one of Butler county's leading citizens.

**Joseph T. Hall**, of Rock Creek township, was the second settler to locate in that part of Butler county which is now Rock Creek township. He came here in 1868, when Douglass consisted of two little log cabins, and the present site of Wichita, was occupied by only two log cabins also, or rather two cabins built of cottonwood poles. Wichita then was the headquarters of the Wichita tribe of Indians, and the chief lived in his tepee there.

Joseph T. Hall was born near Greenfield, Dade county, Missouri, May 4, 1845, a son of George Washington and Martha Jane Hall, the former a native of Illinois, and the latter of North Carolina. George W. Hall, the father, was left an orphan when he was seven years old, and was reared by relatives. He grew to manhood in Dade county. He served in the United States army during the Mexican war, and marched with his regiment from his home in Missouri to Mexico, and served under General Scott. His regiment marched through Butler county over the Sante Fe trail, and camped on the banks of the Walnut river, about four miles from El Dorado, where they celebrated the Fourth of July, and had buffalo meat for dinner.

At the close of the Mexican war, George W. Hall returned to his home in Dade county, Missouri, where he lived until the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted in the Confederate army and was killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek.

In 1866 Joseph T. Hall was united in marriage with Elender Bell, a native of Tennessee, born June 3, 1849. She was a daughter of Silas and Elizabeth Bell, members of prominent Tennessee families, and her father was a Mexican war veteran. About two years after their marriage, in the fall of 1868, Mr. Hall fitted up a prairie schooner, and he with his young wife, in company with five others, started west in search of future homes. Their outfit was hauled by two yoke of oxen, and the trip required about fifteen days. After looking the country over in the vicinity of where Wichita now stands, they decided that was too sandy, but after reaching the rich, broad bottom land of the Walnut valley, they decided to go no farther, and here they staked their claims in Rock Creek township. Mr. Hall erected a little log cabin, 12x14 feet, which was finished in the most primitive style, and proceeded to make his home on the plains of Butler county, and has never had occasion to regret the selection that he made at that time. He has been engaged in the cattle

business on a moderate scale, and has met with very satisfactory results. He has bought more land from time to time, and now owns 436 acres, part of which is located in Cowley county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hall have been born the following children: Cordelia, married Wallace Parsons, a prosperous farmer of Cowley county; John T., a well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek township; Sarah Ann, married Clarence Littell, of Cowley county; Robert Lee, lives near his father's place in Rock Creek township, and works the home farm; James C., died in infancy.

Mr. Hall is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Anti Horse Thief Association, holding membership in all of the above orders at Douglass. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church, and Mr. Hall is a lifelong Democrat. Mr. Hall is one of the pioneers of Butler county, who has seen much of the development of this section of Kansas, and is entitled to no small amount of credit for the part he has taken in reclaiming the desert and building the empire of the West, and, notwithstanding all the hard times of the early days, Mr. Hall says that they enjoyed themselves.

**George Elder**, a member of the board of county commissioners of Butler county, is a well known farmer and stockman. Mr. Elder is a native of Kentucky, born in Marion county, June 28, 1860. He is a son of George and Mary Elder. George Elder came to Butler county with his parents in 1873, when he was thirteen years old. His father bought one-half section of land in Bloomington township. The senior Elder was an extensive cattle dealer in the early days, and for years, perhaps, bought and sold more cattle and hogs than any other dealer in Butler county. He died in 1896, and his widow now resides on the old homestead in Bloomington township.

George Elder, the subject of this sketch, is one of a family of seven children, born to his parents. His early training was in the cattle business with his father, and he has been more or less interested in that industry all his life. In 1881, he bought his first land, and since that time, has added to his original purchase, and now owns over 700 acres in Bloomington, Douglass and Walnut townships.

In 1881, Mr. Elder was united in marriage with Miss Martha A. Dailey, a native of Kansas. She is a daughter of John and Mary Dailey, the former a native of Missouri, and the latter of Kentucky. The Dailey family settled in Butler county in 1872. To Mr. and Mrs. Elder have been born the following children: Mary, married D. F. Gunter of Douglass, Kans.; Orville, a successful cattle dealer and farmer of Butler county; Leonora, died in infancy, and George D., a successful veterinary surgeon, residing with his parents at Douglass.

Mr. Elder is a Democrat, and since his boyhood, has been more or less active in the local councils of the Democratic party, and has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of his party. In 1910 he became a candidate for the office of county commissioner for the first district of

Butler county, and was elected by a majority of 137 in the district, and four years later, was re-elected to that office by a majority of about 350. These results evince something of the personal popularity of Mr. Elder, inasmuch as the normal Republican majority in this district is estimated about 200. Mr. Elder not only overcame this majority, but bears the distinction of being the first man elected to succeed himself to the office of county commissioner in the first district.

When the oil and gas boom struck Butler county, Mr. Elder took a great many leases, and his speculations in that direction have proven very profitable.

Mr. Elder is a thirty-second degree Mason, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**James T. Welch** is a Kansas pioneer and an early settler in Milton township, Butler county. He came to Butler county in 1882, and after spending a short time there, he went to Newton, Kans., where he remained until 1886, working at his trade, which is that of a carpenter. In 1886, he came to Brainerd, which was then a new town, that being the same year that the railroad was built through that section.

Mr. Welch was born in Fulton county, March 4, 1847. His mother died when he was five years old, and two years later his father passed away, and he, therefore, was left an orphan at an early age. His lot was that of an unfortunate orphan child. His guardian placed him in the hands of a family in the neighborhood, and the treatment, which he received as a boy, early developed within him a spirit of self preservation, and a confidence in his ability to shift for himself. He learned, one night, that he was to be whipped the next morning, for some minor fracture of the family rules, and after thinking the matter over, he decided in his boyish mind that he would not be present when the whipping took place, and accordingly during the night, he slid down a lightning rod, and that was the last seen of him in that neighborhood.

He was twelve years old at that time, and, for a few years, drifted around, from one place to another, working at whatever he could find to do, and finally got employment at Payson, Ill., where he got an opportunity to learn the carpenter trade. From there, he went to Stone Prairie and became a successful contractor and builder for a number of years. From there, he came to Kansas, in 1882, as above stated.

Mr. Welch was united in marriage to Miss Lucy A. Strawmatt, a native of Pike county, Illinois, born May 29, 1860, and a daughter of William and Margaret (Chambers) Strawmatt. A more extended history of the Strawmatt family appears in the sketch of Mrs. Mary Sturdyvin, a sister of Mrs. Welch. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Welch resided for a short time at Newton, Kans., when they went to Guthrie, Okla., where they remained a short time, when they came to Butler county, and bought a farm near Whitewater, which they have improved, and which is the present family home. To Mr. and Mrs. Welch have been born the following children: James T., Jr., born August 24,

1891, a carpenter residing in Whitewater, and well known for the excellence of his workmanship; Cecil T., born April 1, 1896, graduated from in Whitewater High School in the class of 1914, and later took a course in a business college at Chillicothe, Mo., and is now teaching school; and Fannie K. Welch, the only girl, was born February 1, 1904. The Welch family is well known and highly respected in the community.

**Joseph Weatherby**, a Kansas pioneer and Civil war veteran, now living retired at Whitewater, Kans., was born in Logan county, Ohio, November 3, 1838. He is a son of Jesse and Eliza (Haines) Weatherby, and comes from old American stock. Jesse Weatherby, the father, was born in Mt. Holly, N. J., in 1812. His parents were Benjamin and Sarah (Matthis) Weatherby. During the War of 1812, Benjamin Weatherby served as major of a New Jersey regiment. He was at the battle of Lundy's Lane and other important engagements. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-five years. He was a son of Septomas Weatherby, a native of New Jersey, and of English descent. Eliza Haines, mother of Joseph Weatherby, was born near Petersburg, Va., a daughter of Joseph and Rachel (Ballinger) Haines, natives of Virginia. Joseph Haines was a son of Allen Haines, also a native of Virginia, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Some time shortly after 1820 the Haines and Ballinger families migrated from Virginia to Ohio, settling in Logan and Champaign counties, and many of their descendants now reside in that locality.

In 1816, when Jesse Weatherby, the father of our subject, was four years of age, his father, Benjamin Weatherby, migrated from New Jersey with a colony of immigrants, who drove across the Allegheny Mountains with a wagon train, which consisted of about forty wagons, and settled in the little frontier town of Columbus, Ohio, and here Benjamin Weatherby built the fifth house in that little village, which has since developed into the city of Columbus. About five years later Benjamin Weatherby moved with his family about fifty miles farther west. Indians were the principal inhabitants of that section then. Here Jesse Weatherby grew to manhood and was married to Eliza Haines, and the young couple began their married life on a tract of land which Jesse's father leased from Henry Clay, and Joseph Weatherby, the subject of this sketch, when a boy remembers having seen Henry Clay at times when he visited his grandfather, Benjamin Weatherby. Jesse Weatherby was a soldier in the Mexican war and served under General Scott. And one of the first incidents that made a lasting impression on the youthful mind of Joseph Weatherby was the Mexican war. After returning from the Mexican war, Jesse Weatherby remained in Ohio until 1858, when he went to Illinois, settling in McLean county, near Bloomington, where he resided until about the close of the Civil war, when he went to Iowa. In 1875, he came to Kansas and located in Barton county, and later went to Indian Territory and made his home with his son, Robert, until his death in 1896.



When the Civil war broke out, Joseph Weatherby enlisted on August 12, 1862, in Company K, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois infantry, under Capt. Sol. Williams. This regiment was assigned to Burnside's army until after the siege of Knoxville, when Burnside was assigned to the East. The regiment was attached to the Twenty-third army corps under General Schofield, and with this corps was with Sherman on his campaign through Georgia and the Carolinas. Mr. Weatherby was mustered out at Raleigh, N. C., June 21, 1865, when he returned to Washington and later returned to his Illinois home.

Mr. Weatherby was united in marriage on October 5, 1865, to Miss Mary E. Simpson, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Carlisle) Simpson. Mrs. Weatherby was born in Ohio, and her parents were natives of Virginia, and of Scotch descent. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Weatherby began life on a farm in McLean county, Illinois. They remained there until 1876, when they came to Kansas and located in Barton county, where Mr. Weatherby homesteaded a claim, which at that time was on the real western frontier. He remained there until 1884, when he removed to Harvey county and settled three or four miles west of Whitewater, or rather where Whitewater is now located. He followed contracting and building for several years and erected a great many buildings in the new growing town of Whitewater. He built the first church in Whitewater, which was his first work in that town. After following contracting and building for a number of years, he accepted the position as foreman on Lord Harrison's ranch in Murdock township, and later returned to Whitewater, where he has since lived retired.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weatherby have been born the following children: William E., deceased; Cora E., now the wife of Samuel Motter, of Murdock township; Emma J., deceased, wife of Charles D. Miller, who is also deceased, and they left one son, C. J. Miller, who now lives with Mr. Weatherby; Alice M. married Andrew J. Ulmer, Harvey county, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Weatherby are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Weatherby is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Masons, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has been a life-long Republican and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He has taken an active interest in local politics, and has served in several local offices of trust and responsibility.

**Thomas Smiley**, a prominent pioneer and well known merchant of Rock Creek township, is one of the founders of Smileyberg, where his store is located. This town was established by Thomas Smiley and Barney Berg, and thus the name Smileyberg. In 1904 Barney Berg bought eighty acres of land on the northeast corner of section 21, and here established a blacksmith shop. In 1908 Thomas Smiley came from Augusta and erected a small store building, 16x20 feet, on this corner, and put in a small stock of groceries and dry goods. The following fall he built an addition to his store and also increased his stock of goods.

Mr. Smiley started in business here with the policy of reasonable prices and fair dealing, and the rapidity of the growth of the business was beyond his greatest expectations. The volume of business done at this store compares favorably with the business of the leading stores of Douglass or Augusta.

Thomas Smiley was born in Canada on the banks of the St. Lawrence river, seven miles from the New York State line, in 1867. He is a son of James and Martha (Paul) Smiley, both natives of Glasgow, Scotland. James Smiley and family went to Canada in 1828 and located in the vicinity of Montreal. They were the parents of six children, of whom Thomas, the subject of this sketch, is the youngest. In 1866 Mr. Smiley left Canada and migrated to Indiana, where he and his brother were engaged as contractors, furnishing wood to the railroads for locomotive fuel, and also ties. They were principally engaged in supplying the Wabash railroad with these materials. They were very successful in their undertakings, and were of the progressive type of business men. They built a saw mill near Logansport, Ind., which they later sold and removed to Kokomo, Ind., where Mr. Smiley had charge of a lumber yard for several years.

Mr. Smiley was married to Miss Martha Church, a native of North Carolina, and to this union three children were born, all of whom died in infancy. From Kokomo, Ind., Mr. Smiley and his wife came to Kansas, first locating at White Cloud. After remaining there about three years they came to Augusta, and later followed farming on the present site of Rose Hill for about four years. This was about the time of the Wichita boom. Mr. Smiley became interested heavily in Wichita real estate, and when the collapse came in real estate he collapsed also, financially, and lost considerable money. He then went to Augusta and entered the employ of Sisco Brothers and sold merchandise for them throughout the country. He drove a wagon and covered a broad scope of territory; he made money for his employers and friends for himself. He formed a wide acquaintance and built up a reputation for honesty and integrity, which was an important asset when he started in business for himself, and many of his customers today are people who traded with him twenty-two years ago when he drove for Sisco Brothers. Mrs. Smiley died in 1893, and Mr. Smiley has never remarried. He is a substantial citizen and is a Republican.

**D. H. Welch.**—In February, 1912, D. H. Welch became a partner of Thomas Smiley in the mercantile business at Smileyberg. Mr. Welch was born in Buchanan county, Missouri, in November, 1855. He came to Butler county, where he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising for a number of years. His first mercantile venture was at Udal, Cowley county. When Mr. Welch entered into partnership with Mr. Smiley, he bought one-half interest in the business, and they are now equal partners. The business is constantly growing, and both Mr. Welch and Mr. Smiley are thorough going business men, whose

frank and fair methods of dealing have won the confidence of a large and constantly increasing patronage.

Mr. Welch was married to Miss Mary McWilliams, a native of Missouri. She died in 1896, leaving no children. Mr. Welch is a wide-awake business man and takes a keen interest in local affairs. He is a Democrat.

**Samuel W. Adams**, now deceased, was a Butler county pioneer and a Civil war veteran, who took a prominent part in the development of Rock Creek township. Mr. Adams was born in Boone county, Kentucky, August 16, 1847. He was a son of Samuel W. and Jane (McGinnis) Adams, natives of Kentucky. Samuel Adams, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood and was educated in his native State, and on September 9, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine E. Snodgrass, a native of Pendleton county, Kentucky, born November 1, 1850. Her parents were Joseph and Sarah Ann (Wallace) Snodgrass, natives of Kentucky, the former of Scotch and German extraction, and the latter of Scotch descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Adams were born the following children: Stella, David E., deceased, and Frank and Dessie. The three surviving children live with their mother in Rock Creek township.

In March, 1870, the spring following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Adams drove from their home in Kentucky to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they shipped their goods to Kansas and came to this State by rail. They first settled in Johnson county, where they leased some Shawnee Indian land on the Shawnee reservation in Johnson county. They remained there until April, 1871, when they loaded their personal possessions in a prairie schooner and started in a southwesterly direction, with a view of locating in Cowley county. When they reached Rock Creek township, Butler county, their journey had been so much interrupted up to this time by swollen streams that they decided to cast their lot with Butler county, and Mr. Adams pre-empted the southeast quarter of section 17. Later his father and two of his brothers settled in Butler county, and two brothers of Mrs. Adams also came here. The first home of the Adams family on the plains of Butler county was a 16x16-foot, one-room structure, built of native lumber, which later, however, was succeeded by a more comfortable and commodious farm residence. When Mr. Adams came to Butler county he had no horses, but broke the prairie with oxen, and he managed to get along in this way for a number of years. His start in Butler county was not unlike that of the average pioneer, but industry and capable management, with good business judgment, brought more than ordinary success to him, and at the time of his death he was one of the prominent and influential men of Butler county.

When the Civil war broke out Mr. Adams was still a boy in his teens, and notwithstanding that he was only fifteen years old, he enlisted August 6, 1862, in Company G, Seventh Kentucky cavalry. After having served three years, he was discharged July 10, 1865, with an honorable

military record to his credit. He participated in many important and hard-fought battles, and at one time was taken prisoner and was confined in the Confederate military prisons for a number of months.

Mr. Adams was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and also supported the policies and the principles of the Democratic party. He took an active part in the local organization of his party, and served two terms as trustee of Rock Creek township. He died October 11, 1902, and Mrs. Adams now resides on the home place. She is a typical representative of that noble band of pioneer women who did their part nobly and well in conquering the prairie and making an empire out of the desert.

**Henry Bally**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Rock Creek township, has been a resident of Butler county for thirty-eight years. He was born in Ashland county, Ohio, May 19, 1845, and is a son of Yost and Elizabeth (Bare) Bally, natives of Germany. The parents were married in their native land and immigrated to America some time between 1820 and 1825, settling in Pennsylvania. At an early day they moved to northern Indiana, and from there to Ashland county, Ohio. In 1847, when Henry was about two years of age, the family migrated to Illinois and settled in Woodford county, about twenty miles from Peoria. At that time Peoria was a small village of less than one hundred inhabitants and had only one grocery store. The parents spent the remainder of their days in Woodford county, the father dying in February, 1878, and his wife departed this life in 1882. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom Henry was the ninth in order of birth.

Henry Bally grew to manhood on the home farm in Illinois and received his education in the public schools, such as were provided in those pioneer days. When the Bally family located in Woodford county, the father bought land for \$3.40 per acre, and the same land today is worth \$3.40 per acre.

In 1869 Henry Bally married Miss Martha A. Bunch, a daughter of Joseph and Phylenia (Moorehouse) Bunch, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Massachusetts. Mr. Bunch was a Republican and a strong Union man during the Civil war, and one of his sons served in the Union army during that conflict. After his marriage Mr. Bally engaged in farming in Illinois, and met with a reasonable degree of success until the panic of 1873, when he lost all. He then decided to go farther west where opportunities were greater, and in 1878 came to Kansas and located in Rock Creek township, Butler county. His capital was limited and he began operations in a small way. He increased his holdings from time to time until he has become one of the substantial and well-to-do farmers and stockmen of Rock Creek township, and today is a leader in his community.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bally have been born three children, as follows: Bertha, married L. M. Base, of Rock Creek township; Harry, died at the age of four years, and Nora, married Arthur J. Watkins, of Rock Creek township.

Mr. Bally is a Republican and takes a keen interest in political affairs, but has never aspired to hold political office. Mr. and Mrs. Bally are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and prominent in the community in which they reside. They belong to that type of pioneers who, by self-sacrifice, have made Butler county what it is today.

**Mrs. Mary Sturdyvin**, a Kansas pioneer woman and one of the early hotel keepers of Whitewater, Kans., was born on a farm near Pittsfield, Pike county, Illinois, July 25, 1866. Her parents were William and Maggie (Chambers) Strawmatt. Her mother was a native of Indiana, and a member of a pioneer family of that State. She was a daughter of John and Margaret (Adams) Chambers, the former of English and the latter of German descent. They probably came from Pennsylvania to Indiana. William Strawmatt, the father of Mrs. Sturdyvin, was born in Pike county, Illinois, August 4, 1827. His father was a boatman on the Mississippi river, and was drowned when William was about five years old.

William Strawmatt grew to manhood on the Illinois prairies, and was married on January 8, 1859. He enlisted in August, 1862, in answer to President Lincoln's call for volunteers, and became a member of Company G, Ninety-ninth regiment, Illinois infantry, and served for three years, during which time he saw much hard service. He participated in the battles of Second Bull Run, Shiloh, The Wilderness, siege of Vicksburg, Fort Donelson and many others. He was captured and confined in Libby prison for a time, but escaped a few weeks later, only to be recaptured and sent to Andersonville prison. He was wounded twice at the second battle of Bull Run, and the close of the war he was mustered out of service and honorably discharged and returned to his home in Illinois.

In 1870 Mr. Strawmatt and his family left Illinois and drove to Holt county, Missouri, where he bought a farm and remained there for eight years. In 1878 he migrated to western Kansas with his family, and homesteaded a claim in Rush county. Three years later he sold his claim there and came to Butler county, settling in Murdock township, and was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising here until April 19, 1893, when his wife died and he disposed of his farming interests and spent the balance of his days in retirement with his children. He died at the home of Mrs. Sturdyvin on March 19, 1907.

Mrs. Sturdyvin was about twelve years of age when the family came to Kansas, and saw much of the pioneer life of the western part of the State. She remembers having seen buffalo on the plains, and Indians were no uncommon sight during her first few years in this State. She was married on September 25, 1881, to George H. Roach, whom she met at a ball at La Crosse, Kans. George H. Roach was born in Washington county, Illinois, May 14, 1858, a son of William and Mary (Cochran) Roach, natives of Ohio, both of whom died when George H. was a small child. He was reared by his grandparents, and

when a young man went to western Kansas and was engaged in the cattle business, where he met his future wife. He homesteaded a quarter section south of Brainerd, and here Mr. and Mrs. Roach lived for over two years. Their oldest child, George W. Roach, was born January 29, 1884. He now resides at Hutchinson. Another son, Glenn H. Roach, was born at Edgecomb, May 1, 1886, and lives in San Francisco, Cal. After residing on their claim, near Brainerd, they moved to Edgecomb and conducted a general store, blacksmith shop, feed stable and kept the postoffice. Four years later they removed to the new town of Brainerd, where they remained until 1890, engaged in the mercantile business. They then moved their stock of goods to Whitewater, which was then a new village. Here George H. Roach died on December 8, 1900, and Mrs. Roach continued the business for two years, and for six years prior to this time had also conducted a hotel at Whitewater. In 1902 she removed to El Dorado and the following year returned to Whitewater and engaged in the hotel business again, which she conducted about six months.

On September 11, 1903, Mrs. Roach was married to Edward F. Sturdyvin. They spent the winter of 1903 and 1904 in St. Louis, Mo., and from there went to Madisonville, Ky., where Mr. Sturdyvin was superintendent of a mine for a time, when they returned to Whitewater. After remaining there for some months they went to Oklahoma, where Mr. Sturdyvin bought a farm in the foothills of the Ozarks, and after remaining there about a year they returned to Whitewater and engaged in the hotel business. This was in May, 1911, and Mr. Sturdyvin died on September 1, 1912. Mrs. Sturdyvin conducted the hotel until April, 1914, when she sold it. Mrs. Sturdyvin is an extensive land owner and has accumulated most of her property by her own efforts. She is a capable business woman, and has been very successful. She owns a half section of land in Oklahoma, which is rich in coal and oil deposits, as well as timber. She also owns a quarter section in Scott county, Kansas, and is a stockholder in the Anticline Oil Company of Oklahoma City, and she also owns a cozy home in Whitewater.

Mrs. Sturdyvin is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, No. 178, Whitewater, Kans., and has held all the offices in that lodge. She is also a member of the Daughters of the Revolution, and has been vice grand, noble grand, chaplain, secretary and district deputy, and has been a delegate to the grand lodge several times. She is also a member of the Whitewater Commercial Club, and takes a keen interest in local affairs.

**F. S. Allen**, owner and proprietor of the Boyden Abstract Company of El Dorado, Kans., has been identified with the abstract business practically all of his life, and the Boyden Abstract Company is one of the best known institutions of its kind in southern Kansas, and its history, and that of its predecessors, is the history of the abstract business in Butler county.

The first abstract business in El Dorado was started in 1868 by I. W. Cameron. David Boyden bought Cameron out in 1879, and Boyden conducted the business about twenty years. Some time in the seventies David Bronson wrote a set of books and also S. L. Shattell, and after some changes the business was consolidated. This consolidation was brought about by the purchase of all interests concerned by R. H. Hazlett, W. B. Crough and F. S. Allen. Later the Butler County Abstract Company made a set of books, which Hazlett, Crough and Allen bought. This was in 1895, and in 1899 Mr. Allen became the sole owner of the institution.

Mr. Allen began in the abstract business in 1882. The Boyden abstract business has gradually developed until it has become one of the important institutions of El Dorado. During the recent industrial development in the oil and gas business, the abstract business has increased beyond any reasonable expectation. During the first six months of 1916 Mr. Allen gave employment to eighteen clerks in his office, and during normal conditions he employed eight assistants. He owns his own building at No. 125 West Central avenue, and the abstract business occupies the first floor with a floor space of 1,320 feet.

Mr. Allen was born near Boston, Mass., a son of Louis E. and Susan (Boyden) Allen, natives of Massachusetts. The father was a seafaring man and was lost at sea when F. S. was a child, and the mother now resides in El Dorado. Mr. Allen came to Kansas in 1882, and since that time has been located in El Dorado, and is one of the substantial business men of Butler county. He was elected registrar of deeds of Butler county in 1897, and at the expiration of his first term he was re-elected to that office, and served five years in all, serving one additional year, on account of a change in the law. Politically, Mr. Allen has always been identified with the Democratic party.

**Thomas H. Overstreet**, a Butler county pioneer and Civil war veteran, who has made his home in Little Walnut township for the past forty-four years, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in Mercer county and is a son of Harding Overstreet. The father was a stone mason and farmer. Mr. Overstreet located on government land in Little Walnut township in 1872, and since that time has been engaged in farming and stock raising. He is one of the men whose industry and foresight have made Butler county one of the leading counties in the great State of Kansas.

Mr. Overstreet was married in October, 1865, to Miss Sarah Jane Beasley, and the following children have been born to this union: Mrs. Ida Sinkhorn, Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Delitha Dawson, Wichita, Kans.; William, Wichita, Kans.; Hardy, Elgin, Kans.; Mrs. Gertrude Tabing, Leon, Kans.

When Thomas Overstreet came to Butler county the country was in a new and undeveloped state. Conveniences and accommodations were few, and, like the other early day pioneers, he made the best of the

situation, with a view of building a home for himself and his family. He endured the many hardships incident to pioneer life and enjoyed few luxuries, but he lived to be rewarded and was not disappointed. He reared his family in a way that they are a credit to their parents and to the community—the highest type of American citizenship. They are all prosperous and well-to-do, and in view of all this, Mr. Overstreet and his wife may well spend the remainder of their days in the consciousness of the fact that they have lived successful lives and contributed their part towards a better and higher civilization. This noble band of pioneers who reclaimed the great American desert are rapidly passing away, and it is but fitting that a work of this character should chronicle something of the lives and deeds of those who did their part nobly and well. It may be said of Thomas Overstreet that as a soldier and a pioneer he fought a good fight.

**Amos Stewart**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Rock Creek township, is a Civil war veteran and Butler county pioneer. Mr. Stewart was born near Greencastle, Ind., February 10, 1840, and is a son of James and Dicy (Wright) Stewart, the father a native of Kentucky, and the mother of North Carolina, both of whom migrated to Indiana with their respective parents when children. The Stewart family remained in Indiana until 1849, when they migrated to Washington county, Iowa. The father conducted a farm there and also operated a sawmill. In 1857 the family moved to Appanoose county, Iowa, remaining there until 1882, when they removed to Kansas.

On August 12, 1861, Amos Stewart enlisted in answer to the President's call for volunteers to defend the Union. The Iowa quota was filled by the time he was recruited and he was mustered into the United States service as a member of Company D, Fifth Kansas regiment, and was later transferred to Company B, of the same regiment. This regiment saw service along the troublesome border in Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas, and were principally engaged in fighting guerillas. Mr. Stewart's term of enlistment expired in February, 1864, after he had served three years, and he immediately re-enlisted in the same company for a period of four years. He served until after the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge on August 21, 1865, after serving four years and nine days. He saw much hard service of a dangerous and disagreeable character known as "guerilla warfare," where military rules and usages were disregarded and frequently no quarter was shown. To be captured invariably meant death.

At the close of the war Mr. Stewart returned to Appanoose county, Iowa, and in October, 1866, he was married to Miss Mary Linton, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of L. L. and Rachel (Moore) Linton, natives of Ohio. Mr. Stewart and his wife began life on a farm in Iowa, where they remained until July, 1870, when they came to Kansas and settled in Butler county, which has since been their home. To Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have been born the following children: Alice R. married



A. G. Huffman, Lamar, Neb.; J. P., resides on the home place; Louis R., farmer, Rock Creek township; Rachel N., died at the age of one year, and one child, born in Iowa, died in infancy. Mrs. Stewart departed this life on July 4, 1909.

Mr. Stewart is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a member of the Church of Christ, Little Walnut Chapel. He has been a life-long Republican and is a firm believer in the policies and principles of that party. Since coming to Butler county, Mr. Stewart has accumulated a competency, and is one of the well-to-do farmers of Rock Creek township, being the owner of one of the fine farms in Butler county. Mr. Stewart has always done his duty conscientiously and well, whether on the field of battle or in the quiet walks of every day life.

**James Isaac Plummer**, a prominent farmer of Rock Creek township, is a Kansas pioneer. Mr. Plummer was born near Greencastle, Putnam county, Indiana, February 12, 1848, and is a son of John Wilson and Nettie (Stewart) Plummer, the former a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Putnam county, Indiana. In 1860 the Plummer family left their Indiana home and started West, with Kansas as their destination, and finally located in Pottawatomic county, where the father bought 120 acres of land. They drove the entire distance from Indiana to their new home in Kansas, and brought with them about thirty head of cattle. At first they were much pleased with their new home in Kansas, but later in the season of that year an unusual drought developed, no rain of any amount falling between April and the following winter.

In 1870 the Plummer family came to Butler county and settled in Rock Creek township, filing on the northeast quarter of section 5, on what was known as the Indian trust lands. The father also filed on a claim three miles southwest a few months later. Mr. Plummer's first home in Butler county was a stone structure built without mortar, which was succeeded about five years later by a more pretentious residence, which is a very substantial stone building, and which is still the family home.

Mr. Plummer was united in marriage in 1869 with Miss Bertha A. Fuller, a native of Iowa, and to this union was born one child, who died in infancy. Mrs. Plummer died in 1871, and ten years later Mr. Plummer was married to Emma F. Dugan, a native of Missouri, and one child was born to this union, Hugh L., who resides on the home place with his parents.

Mr. Plummer is one of the substantial men of Butler county, and has been identified with the development of this county almost since its beginning. He is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, and for a number of years was actively identified with the Grange Lodge. He and his wife are members of the Christian church, and Mrs. Plummer is a profound student of the Bible. Politically, Mr. Plummer is a Republican, although inclined to be independent and liberal in matters of politics.

**C. M. Price**, a prominent and influential citizen of Butler county, is an early pioneer well worthy of mention in a work of this character. Mr. Price is a native of Kentucky, born in Logan county on October 12, 1849, and is a son of T. J. and Sarah (McCarley) Price, natives of Kentucky and of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

C. M. Price grew to manhood in Kentucky and drove through from Logan county, Kentucky, to Butler county, Kansas, with a team and wagon. He pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 21, Clay township, or what was later called Clay township, upon the organization of that township. Mr. Price has successfully followed farming and stock raising, and has added to his original farm until he now owns 520 acres of rich, alluvial soil on the Rock creek bottoms.

Mr. Price was married on August 25, 1874, to Miss Melcena Blancett, a native of Clinton county, Ohio, born January 27, 1857. She is a daughter of Joseph and Isabell (Barker) Blancett. The mother was a native of New Orleans, La., and daughter of Samuel Barker, a native of Connecticut, and of English descent. Joseph Blancett was born and reared in Ohio, a son of Joseph and Hannah (Beadle) Blancett, the father being one of the very early settlers of Ohio, locating in that section when it was still a part of the Northwest Territory. The Blancett family are of French origin. Mrs. Price was the only child born to her parents. Her family migrated from Ohio to Adair county, Missouri in 1870, and two years later came to Butler county, Kansas and pre-empted a claim in the northern part of Clay township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Price have been born the following children: Opal married Charles M. Frakes, Clay township; Ernest, an extensive cattleman, Clay township; Clifford, also a cattleman, in Clay township; Roy P., Clay township; Marjorie, married George Hall, Clay township; Ruby, married W. E. Jenkins, Douglass, Kans.; Nina, married George Gibson, Clay township; Emmett, Clay township; Audrey, resides at home; Belle, married Joseph Markley, Atlanta, Kans.; Percy, resides at home; Iris, died at the age of one year, and Romney, died at the age of six years.

Mr. Price has been identified with Clay township and Butler county almost since their beginning, and has always taken a praiseworthy interest in local affairs, and in the welfare of his county and State. He attended the first election ever held in Clay township, and has the distinction of having cast the first Democratic vote in that township. He is recognized as one of the successful citizens of Butler county.

**George R. Fox**, now deceased, was a Civil war veteran and an early settler in Butler county, who by his industry and integrity attained a prominent position among the representative men of this county. He was born in Geauga county, Ohio, March 28, 1844, and died on July 26, 1911. He was a son of John Wilkins Fox, a native of Ipswich, Mass. The Fox family is of English descent and was founded in New England many years prior to the Revolutionary war. Captain Fox, the great

grandfather of George R. Fox, was a distinguished soldier in the American army during the Revolutionary war.

George R. Fox no doubt inherited his military inclination from some of his illustrious ancestors. At the age of nineteen years he enlisted in the Twelfth Ohio cavalry, one of the famous regiments of the Union army. Owing to the fact that he was under age when he enlisted his father came after him with the purpose of taking him home, but the young soldier informed his father that if he refused to give his consent to his enlistment this time he would run away from home again and enlist at some other place. The father saw that opposition would be of no avail and offered no further objection.

Young Fox served throughout the war and made a good military record. At the close of the war he returned to his Ohio home and shortly afterward went to the oil fields of Pennsylvania, and in 1869 came to Butler county, Kansas, and pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 4, Douglass township. This is some of the best bottom land along the river. Later he bought another quarter section adjoining his original homestead. This half section is now owned by his widow, with the exception of seventy acres, which Mr. Fox sold for the reason that it was on the opposite side of the river from the main body of his land, which made it inconvenient to operate. Mr. Fox followed farming and stock raising here throughout his life time, and was one of Butler county's substantial citizens.

October 21, 1872, George R. Fox and Miss Agnes Livingston were united in marriage. Her parents were John and Lydia (Johnston) Livingston, and she was the only child, and was born on May 5, 1853, in Illinois. John Livingston was a native of Knox county, Illinois, and of English descent, his wife, Lydia Johnston, being a native of Montreal, Canada, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The Johnston family came from Canada at a very early date, and for a time lived at Navoo, Ill., and from there removed to Knox county, Illinois, when Mrs. Fox's mother was nine years old. Mrs. Fox's father died when she was three years old, after which her mother married C. A. Stine, a Methodist Episcopal minister. Shortly after their marriage they removed to Mankato, Minn. The family resided in the vicinity of a great deal of Indian trouble after settling in Minnesota. Their home was only four miles from where the New Elm massacre took place, and Mr. Stine was wounded there. He was a Civil war veteran and during the Civil war raised a company of volunteers. The Stine family endured a great many hardships and were exposed to great dangers during the Indian uprising in the Northwest at that time.

In the fall of 1870 Mrs. Fox, then a girl, came to Butler county with her mother and step-father. They pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 16. The mother died in 1828, and Mr. Stine died a few years later in California.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fox began life on the farm which

he had pre-empted, and which was their home for a number of years. To Mr. and Mrs. Fox were born the following children: Mrs. Emma M. Sheets, Blackwell, Okla.; John W.; Neoka, resides at home with her mother; Ober, resides in Oklahoma; James E., at home; Roena, married Guy Elliott, Rhodes, Iowa, and Frank, resides at home.

George R. Fox was an active and prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was a splendid type of American citizen, whose death was not only a great loss to his immediate family and friends, but to the community in general.

Mrs. Fox is one of the interesting pioneer women of Butler county. She taught the first school in Douglass in 1871. The term was for a period of six months. She relates many amusing instances in connection with her pioneer school on the plains. She had thirty-eight pupils, and of their thirty-eight books only three were alike. One man sent six children to school with only one book, the Bible, and requested that his children's education be confined to that text. Even with all these drawbacks, Mrs. Fox said that her pupils made good progress, and no doubt the pioneer schools of that time prepared the boys and girls for just as useful lives as the more artificial and highly organized educational institution of a later day.

**John W. Fox**, a prominent farmer and stockman of Rock Creek township, is a native son of Butler county, born May 21, 1877. He is a son of George R. and Agnes (Livingston) Fox. The mother was a native of Illinois and a daughter of John Livingston. George R. Fox, the father, was a native of Ohio, and was a son of John W. Fox, who came from England. John W. Fox was a prosperous farmer in Ohio and frequently visited in Kansas after his son came here, and in the early days the old gentleman took great delight in buffalo hunting. He has killed buffalo on the plains west of Butler county.

George R. Fox, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a veteran of the Civil war, having served in the Twelfth Ohio cavalry, serving until the close of the war. In 1868 he came West and located in Butler county, filing on a claim two and one-half miles north of the present site of Douglass. He became a prosperous and extensive cattle man, and at the time of his death owned between 700 and 800 acres of land. He died in 1911, well known and highly respected. He was a Republican and was active in the interest and welfare of his party, and frequently held local offices of trust and responsibility, having served as clerk in Douglass township, and for a number of years was a member of the school board.

John W. Fox was one of a family of seven children. He was reared in Butler county and educated in the public schools. He graduated from the Walnut City District School and later was graduated from the Douglass High School. Soon after leaving school he engaged in the cattle business for himself and bought a farm. He has added to his original holdings from time to time until he is now one of the large land

owners of his neighborhood. He is considered one of the successful cattlemen of southern Butler county. He specializes in Aberdeen Angus cattle.

On December 8, 1904, Mr. Fox was united in marriage with Miss Robbie Parsons, a native of Tennessee, who came to Butler county, Kansas, with her mother after her father's death. To Mr. and Mrs. Fox has been born one child, Edith, born in 1907, and died in 1911. Mr. Fox is a Republican and a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security.

**C. W. Hein**, a successful stockman of Rock Creek township, came to Butler county from Germany in 1892. When he came here his father-in-law, Nicholas Kuns, was engaged in the restaurant business at Douglass. Mr. Hein had no knowledge of the English language when he came here, but he had learned the butcher trade in his native land, and entered the employ of C. P. Gyot, a Frenchman, who conducted a butcher shop in Douglass. After the first week, Mr. Hein had learned enough of English so that he could understand the customers to the extent of making sales in a very satisfactory manner, and made very rapid progress in the mastery of English. He entered the employ of Alfred Edleman, who conducted another shop in Douglass, and worked for him two years.

When he came here Mr. Hein had about \$300, to which he added his savings, and later purchased a farm in Rock Creek township, paying \$1,000 down and he had enough capital left to buy a team, implements, etc. His farm was located on the northwest quarter of section 28, Rock Creek township. It was practically unimproved. A dilapidated claim shack stood on the place, but there was not a rod of fence, a well, nor any other improvements. He proceeded to improve the place, and soon made a comfortable home for himself and family. He has prospered, becoming one of the substantial and well-to-do farmers and stockmen, not only of Rock Creek township, but of Butler county. He worked hard to get a start, and has succeeded even beyond his expectations. He is a capable business man, and his investments have uniformly proven profitable.

Mr. Hein was born in Germany on October 12, 1855. His parents, Ernst and Louise Hein, were both natives of Germany. The father was engaged in the milling business in the town of Stalupenen, in the eastern part of the German Empire. C. W. Hein received his education in the schools of his native land, and when a youth learned the butcher trade. He was united in marriage to Miss K. P. Kuns, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Nicholas Kuns. To Mr. and Mrs. Hein have been born ten children, seven of whom were born in Germany, and the others in Butler county, Kansas. They are as follows: Mrs. Henry Sherman, who resides near Udell, Kans.; W. F., Rock Creek township; Charles, Douglass township; Louise, married William Diller, and resides near Mulvane, Kans.; Frank, Douglass, Kans.; Oscar and Mary, live at home with their parents. All of the Hein children are prosperous and substantial citizens.

Mr. Hein is a Republican and takes a commendable interest in local affairs. He has been a member of the school board for a number of years, and takes a keen interest in educational matters, and is an advocate of good schools. For twelve years Mr. Hein has been road supervisor. He is a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, and is a public-spirited citizen.

**G. W. Gibson**, a successful farmer and stockman of Rock Creek township, is a Butler county pioneer and Civil war veteran. Mr. Gibson was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1844. His parents were George G. and Nancy B. (Anderson) Gibson, also natives of Pennsylvania.

G. W. Gibson was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania and grew to manhood in that State, and when the Civil war broke out he was a boy under seventeen years of age, but on September 4, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Third regiment, Pennsylvania infantry. He participated with his regiment in the battles of Chickahominy, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, and many other important engagements. At the battle of Plymouth, Mr. Gibson was taken prisoner, in April, 1864, and was confined in the Andersonville and Florence prisons from May 1 to December 10. He was mustered out of service June 17, 1865.

After receiving his discharge from the army Mr. Gibson returned to his Pennsylvania home and took a commercial course, and for three years was in the Pennsylvania oil field. In 1871 he came to Butler county, Kansas, and located in Rock Creek township on the southwest quarter of section 23. He is one of the prosperous farmers and stockmen of Butler county, and now own 640 acres of land.

Mr. Gibson was married March 9, 1873, to Margaret A. Beckner, a native of DeKalb county, Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have been born eleven children, nine of whom are living, as follows: Mary, married H. S. Smith, a farmer of Rock Creek township; William Howard, lives in Colorado; Samuel A., Rock Creek township; Ina, married Fred Williams and resides near Cheney, Kans.; Ada, married F. H. Paisley, of Douglass township; George G., Clay township; Charles G., Douglass, Kans.; Clara, married Byron Ray, Clay township, and Harold A., resides at home.

Mr. Gibson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a staunch Republican and has steadfastly supported the principles of that party throughout life, but has never aspired to hold political office.

When Mr. Gibson came to Butler county much of the primitive conditions on the plains prevailed. Game was plentiful and he frequently hunted deer and antelope with success. He has seen much of the development of Butler county and southern Kansas, and possesses an interesting store of early day reminiscences. Mr. Gibson is one of the substantial men of Butler county who has made good.













